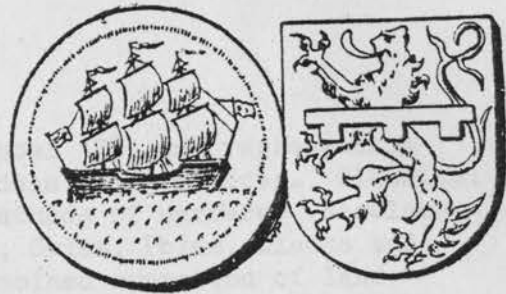


1781-1981



Yorktown - Zweibrücken

THE ZWEYBRÜCKEN

or

ROYAL DEUX PONTS REGIMENT

and

YORKTOWN

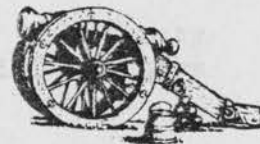
Rudolf Karl Tröss

translated and edited by

Wolf Prow

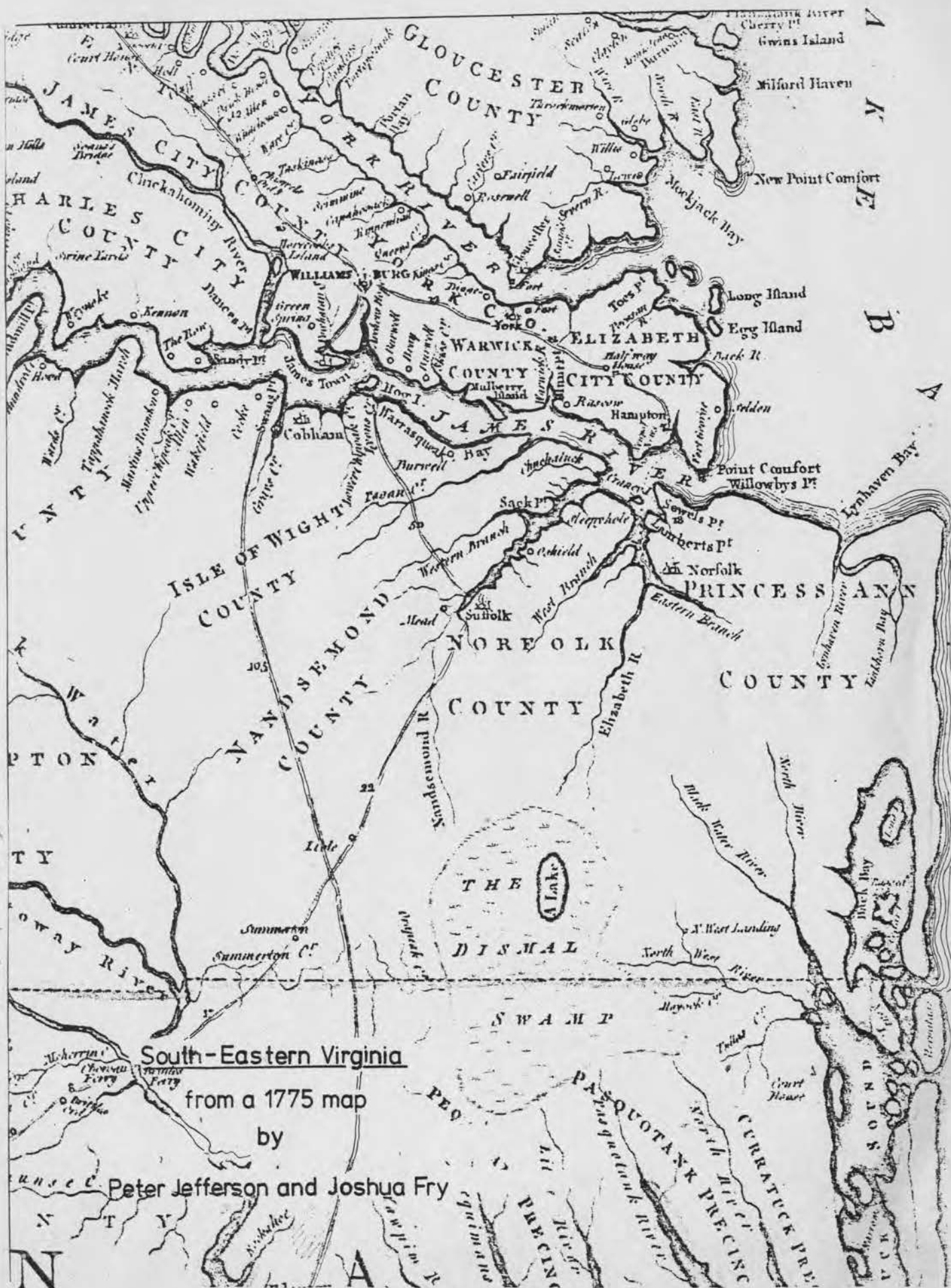
Portions of this Book were published in 1976 by the

York County Bicentennial Committee



YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

1981



South-Eastern Virginia

from a 1775 map

by

Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry

Foreword

The Battle of Yorktown was decided in October 1781 and represents a microcosm of prevalent American and European ideas and practices. Classical siege operations were combined with flexible methods of warfare. Regulars and militia, Americans, French, Germans, Irish, Swiss, Poles, blacks and whites fought side by side. Yorktown was a combined operation of land and naval forces, of poly-cultural allies and multi-lingual opponents. The Battle of Yorktown assured American Independence and opened the long restrained flow of new ideas about self-government and personal freedom. The concepts swept the world and became the model for free people everywhere.

The bicentennial celebration of the Victory at Yorktown prompts renewal of efforts to strengthen ties with traditional allies and to seek international cooperation and friendship. The York County Bicentennial Committee takes this opportunity to revise and reprint Yorktown and the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment which originally appeared in 1976 and was revised in 1978. The bicentennial version of 1981 is to re-affirm the existing partnership with Zweibrücken.

The Royal Deux-Ponts or Zweybrücken Infantry Regiment was one of the most powerful units of the French Expeditionary Corps serving in America under General Rochambeau from 1780 to 1783. The Regiment fought under its own flag and as a "National Zweybrücken Corps" in alliance with France. The historian Rudolf Karl Tröss has worked diligently to provide a compendium of facts - presented here in translation - to highlight the contributions of the small German Duchy of Zweibrücken in the winning of American Independence.

Zweibrücken means Two Bridges and is an appropriate symbol of spanning the gap of time and distance, to link the Old World with the New, and to tie present with the past. Bridges of friendship are a fitting symbol for bicentennial celebrations and proper to commemorate links with the past that continue through student exchanges, personal friendships, and close ties across the Atlantic.

Yorktown, Virginia

May 1981

Wolf Prow
Chairman, York County
Bicentennial Committee



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INTRODUCTION

Earthen walls and battlements, old guns and flags, monuments and markers at the Yorktown Battlefield in Virginia attest to a momentous victory won in 1781. Although limited in scope by European standards and fought with relatively small armies, Yorktown turned out to be the crucial battle of the American Revolutionary War and the decisive encounter in the winning of American independence. Close cooperation of American and French land armies was the most important element, decisively supported by the French Navy which closed Chesapeake Bay for relief of a besieged British corps composed of regulars and Hessian soldiers and swelled in numbers by hundreds of blacks seized or recruited for digging and other menial work. The surrender of this isolated English force became inevitable when flanking outworks fell to French and American assault units and the position of the main force became untenable. On the 19th of October 1781 the forces of Lord Cornwallis marched to the designated Surrender Field and ceremoniously laid down their arms. A magnificent victory had been won!

The presence of German mercenaries on the English side created the impression that German elements were aligned against the American cause during the Revolutionary War. The Hessians, however, were not volunteers and had been literally sold by their rulers for gain and profit. In many ways these Hessians were not much better off than slaves. In fact, on the average about £4 were paid for each Hessian soldier while a good slave cost ten times as much. The big difference was that the Hessians would be returned to their homeland. For them it was purgatory, for the slaves it was hell.

On the American side many Germans, Swiss and Austrians served with distinction. Some attained fame through their abilities and dedication. One of these was Baron Friedrich von Steuben, commander of the largest American Division at Yorktown and organizer of the American Army. Another, the self-styled Baron de Kalb, distinguished himself as agent and as American officer who gave his life at Camden. Germans from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York fought in the ranks of continentals and in militia units. Peter Mühlenberg of Pennsylvania achieved distinction as one of Lafayette's commanders at Yorktown.

Recent research revealed that one of the French regiments of Rochambeau's force - the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment - was definitely a German unit serving under its own flag and under the command of its own Duke's sons. This Régiment d'Infanterie Allemande was one of the best and most efficient of Allied regiments at Yorktown.

The name "Deux-Ponts" appears to be French, but closer scrutiny reveals that it translates into "Two Bridges", or in German, "Zweibrücken". It was the Duchy of Zweibrücken that had raised this regiment in 1757, helping to provide the Western European Alliance under the leadership of France with the means to check the rise of Prussia. Although Zweibrücken did eventually become part of a united Germany, in the 18th century it was an unacceptable idea for the Palatinate to be under stern Prussian discipline. In any event, historic references give few hints that almost a fourth of the French contingent in America was of German birth and German speaking. Professional interpreters served as members of the staff to assure communications with rank and file. Officers spoke French, as did Europe's nobility and educated class.

Scores of men of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment gave their lives for American independence and rest in Virginia's earth. Markers with names of Deux-Ponts soldiers carry an unmistakably German ring. Staubert, Müller, Stautzer, and Blitzenberger are examples of Zweibrückers who died for America.

The opprobrium attached to Hessians who were detested by their friends and hated by their enemies, is perhaps subconsciously transferred to all soldiers who are believed to have served in foreign pay. The Zweibrückers did serve a foreign king, but it must not be forgotten that Western Germany was allied with France and that the entire country was divided against itself with hundreds of tiny principalities seeking to outdo each other.

A ZWEIBRÜCKEN HISTORIAN

A Zweibrücken historian, Mr. Rudolf Karl Tröss, has diligently compiled documents concerning the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment and published his findings in hometown papers, the "Pfälzischer Merkur" and the 250,000 circulation "Rheinpfalz". The articles of Mr. Tröss and the translations thereof which follow, should dispel entrenched, but erroneous notions and create a climate in which historical research can proceed unfettered by prejudices. Mr. Tröss repeatedly urges that historical errors be corrected.

When visiting Yorktown as member of an official Delegation from Zweibrücken in October 1976, Mr. Tröss delivered a public lecture about the regiment. Since he has no command of English, he had to study the translation for weeks. It is no small achievement for a gentleman 79 years of age to perform such a feat.

From the book

ZWEIBRUCKEN

by Günther Bartz,
Graf Verlag, Speyer
1974, p. 57



Offizier des Regiments Royal-Deux-Ponts, seit 1757 in der Garnison zu Straßburg.
Siegreiches Regiment in der Schlacht von Yorktown 1781.
Nymphenburger Porzellan.

Mr. Tröss has a zest for life and a great sense of humor. He regaled old and new friends with endless jokes and amusing anecdotes. It is characteristic of Rudolf Karl Tröss to have found the interest in the regiment not through scholarly research, or academic pursuits, but through a movement sweeping Germany in the 1930's when the search for roots and ancestry was acute. He tells the story with a twinkle in his eyes.

The pre-occupation with one's roots stemmed from Nazi insistence on proving background and ancestry. The deluge of letters received by the Zweibrücken City Administration about old records became so staggering, that Mr. Tröss was assigned to set up a system to cope with the mountains of mail. As dutiful city official he complied and soon became steeped in old documents and records that had to be found for ever widening searches. Inevitably, certificates of three, four, and five generations past would include references to officers and soldiers of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment. It became routine to refer to this 18th century unit, but for Mr. Tröss it became a challenge since he was not content with mere bureaucratic efficiency.

It was not only intellectual curiosity, but also personal experience that brought a life-long interest with dazzling sparkle for Mr. Tröss. He loves to tell the story himself and begins by explaining the work he was doing at the time. Then he relates the incident that brought the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment to life:

A most respectable judge in Munich had written for information about his great-grandmother - a Zweibrücken lady of the late 18th century. Mr. Tröss readily found the birth records, but noticed that the child was the illegitimate offspring of the judge's ancestor and a musician in the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment. Moreover, the parish minister had added the notation that this particular soldier had repeatedly demonstrated his sexual prowess with results that called for recording in birth statistics. Dutifully Mr. Tröss made an excerpt and in the accompanying letter discouraged the judge from making further inquiries. However, his honor was determined to establish family roots and insisted on full details. Mr. Tröss supplied them upon receipt of the customary search fee. That was the last heard from the judge who was most piqued at that indignity and lost interest in his Royal Deux-Ponts background. This chagrined Mr. Tröss since this was a situation over which no one in this century had any control and in view of his conviction that descendance from that regiment was no dishonor. A good friend of



Rudolf Karl Tröss

A brief History of Zweibrücken

his, a Zweibrücken physician, consoled him: "Look at it this way, Rudolf, there should be no scorn for dear grandma because she happened to fall in love with a chap from one of the finest regiments in Europe. Besides, we now know where the musical talent in the family comes from and we also know that she must have been beautiful because that soldier could afford to be choosy." The doctor added: "Better still, we know that the soldier was healthy, hale, and hearty and had been found worthy to serve in the regiment. Indeed, the judge should be glad to have a red-blooded blade and such a romantic lady as ancestors. You really couldn't ask for any better!" Needless to say, Mr. Tröss was much impressed and his love for the regiment has flourished ever since. The judge was remiss scoffing at his "French" ancestry.

For many years, and especially since his retirement, Mr. Tröss has devoted his life to seek the forgotten and lost threads to the past and spared no effort, expense, or sacrifice, to amass the documentary evidence to support the history of the origin, the emergence, the activities, and the historic role of the Regiment from Zweibrücken. Publications printed in the Palatinate and in Bavaria, and newspapers and magazines appearing in his home town, have brought the story of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment to public attention. Special issues of the Pfälzischer Merkur and the widely read Rheinpfalz formed the core of the translations presented here.

The City of Zweibrücken, Yorktown, and three nations owe Mr. Tröss appreciation and recognition for rekindling interest in a colorful regiment and a history that links France, Germany, and the United States of America. This alliance is unique and a precedent for friendship on a truly international scale.

A brief History of Zweibrücken

How old is Zweibrücken? Is it a French, or is it a German town? If it is German, why did a regiment raised in Zweibrücken fight under the lilies of the Bourbons? These and other questions invariably arise when the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment and its role in the Battle of Yorktown are discussed by Americans. Perhaps a historical sketch can provide some of the details.

Zweibrücken is and has been a border town for centuries. Just a few kilometers away road signs refer to the town as "Deux-Ponts". In the Rhineland-Palatinate and in Germany, the town is known as Zweibrücken, or translated into English as "Two Bridges". This very name is indicative that the city of the two bridges has been at the crossroads between Germany and France and Germany and the Saarland for many years. Now it turns out that Zweibrücken also spans the Atlantic symbolically between the Old World and the New.

Stone Age settlements dating back to 3,000 B.C. have been unearthed, establishing a record of human occupation over thousands of years. Romans settled on high ground in the area and left a legacy of early construction and economic activity datable to 55 B.C. Germany's oldest city, Trier or Treves, is also in the Palatinate and still features Roman gate and Roman buildings. The site of present Zweibrücken was shunned in past ages on account of its swampy characteristics.

With Charlemagne, Western civilization took a definite course. The custom of settling in lowlands, in swamps, on flood plains, and even in tectonically active zones became prevalent.

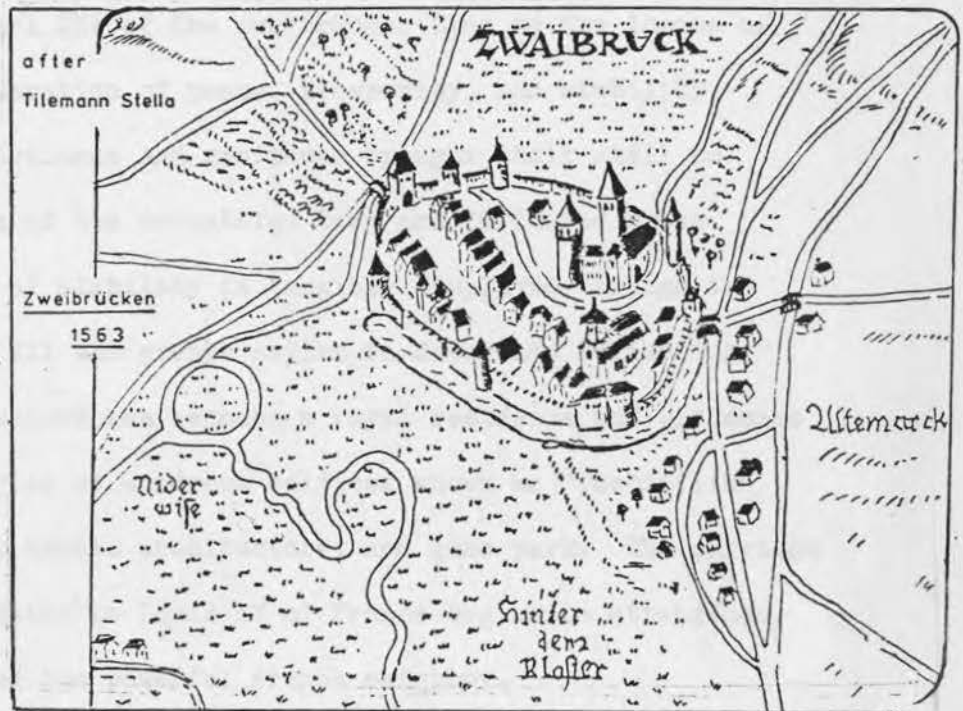
Ease of construction and accessibility had to be combined with defensibility. Zweibrücken traces its beginnings to settlement on a flood prone and wet site. A fortified customs house appears to have been the original structure datable to 1150 A.D. Indicative of a boundary between economically or culturally diverse societies, the customs house was accessible only by means of two bridges. It is small wonder that early references to ZWEINBRUCHKEN, then ZWEINBRUKE, ZWEYBRUCK, and ZWAIBRUCK finally evolved into the modern ZWEIBRUCKEN. The year 1352 was significant because at that time the fortified settlement of two bridges was officially certified as a city. Festivities in 1977 celebrated 625 years of urban existence. It took more building and growth before the first depictions of 16th century artists appeared in woodcuts and prints. (See Sebastian Münster's woodcut of 1550 below)



By the middle of the 16th century scattered holdings began to be added to the property of the Lords of Zweybruck and Bitsch through purchase, marriage, division, exchange, apportionment, and commercial involvements. Records do not reveal acquisition through conquest, robbery, or other forms of violence. A woodcut by Tilemann Stella of 1563 represents one of the earliest maps of Zweibrücken and shows the settlement amidst swamps as a wall-enclosed town.

The woodcut served as model for the sketch appearing in Dewey A. Browder's book, Zweibruecken, Yesterday and Today, Pfälzischer Merkur, Zweibrücken, 1976, p. 13.

The two bridges are shown on the right side leading from the



ZWEIBRÜCKEN 1563

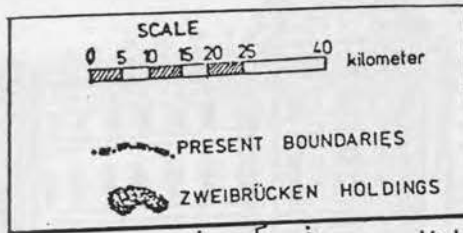
Altmarck over a stream and the second one as leading over the moat just outside the wall. Stella used the "Zwaibruck" spelling in his artistic endeavor.

In the year 1385 the Zweibruck holdings became part of the "Pfalz", or Palatinate. The year 1410 marks the acquisition of the modest Duchy by the Wittelsbach line through inheritance of a deed of mortgage redeemable for 30,000 gold guilders from brother-in-law and Lorrainian Duke Karl II.

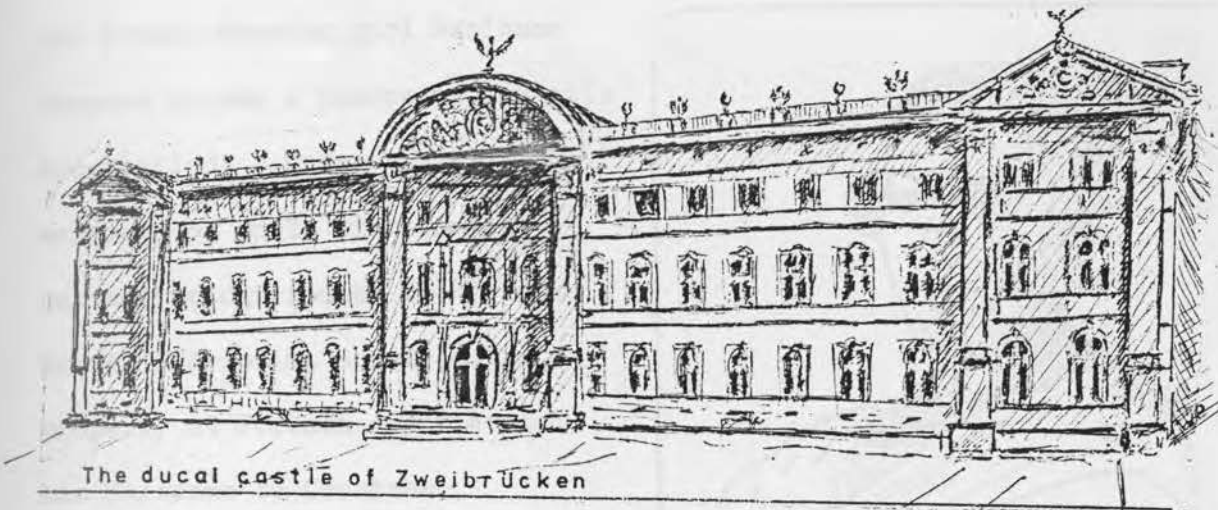
Through industry, hard work, and management, wealth was accumulated and churches and other edifices rose. Stella's illustration already shows market place, churches and castle. Unfortunately, the Thirty-Years War of 1618-1648 brought ravages and destruction by armies that crossed Europe. French armies devastated the town now turned Protestant. Reconstruction was slow and painful. Ceding the Duchy to Sweden in 1697 was an alternative that not only elevated Karl XII of the Zweibrücker Line to the throne of Sweden, but brought a generation of peace, prosperity, and stability.

Swiss and Tyrolean artisans and craftsmen brought their skill to aid in the reconstruction of the devastated town and furthered urban growth. Another measure of stability is tangibly displayed through the benevolence of King Karl XII who grants asylum to dethroned Polish King Stanislaus Lescinsky. Zweibrücken becomes a royal residence and witnesses the construction of a series of wondrous edifices known as "Tschifflik", replete with water falls, exotic architecture, and game park. The marriage of the Polish King's daughter to Louis XV of France begins to strengthen ties between the Duchy and the powerful French neighbor.

With home rule restored in 1718, the Duchy felt the pressure of neighboring France and a growing need for accommodation with this unified and powerful nation. The Swedish influence, however, finds expression in the construction of the ducal palace designed by architect Sundahl. This structure would be characteristic of Zweibrücken during its golden age and would be the very symbol of Zweibrücken's most glorious era. Completed by 1725, this palace survived the French Revolution, but was destroyed by bombs in 1945. It has been reconstructed on the same site since.



The Duchy of Zweibrücken
In the 18th century



ZWEIBRÜCKEN'S GOLDEN AGE

German nationalism was not stirring. Countless principalities vied with one another and attempted to reflect the culture of France. The arts, architecture, gardens, and life styles were patterned on the French example. Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, spoke better French than German and built a palace called "Sans Souci". The Linderhof Castle in Bavaria - well known to many Americans - is typical of the French influence. Zweibrücken had become an immediate neighbor of France when the province of Alsace became French in 1713 and the holdings of Rappoltsweiler, Bischweiler, Seltz, and Hagenbach were in French territory. A close alliance with the powerful neighbor was inevitable and prudent.

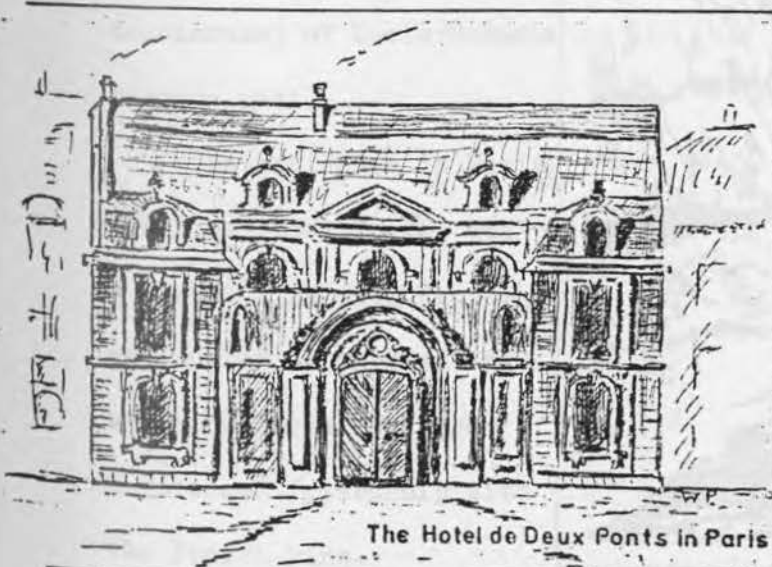
The Birkenfeld-Bischweiler Line of the House of Wittelsbach, with properties in Alsace, Lorraine, and the Palatinate, assumed the Ducal crown. Zweibrücken's most celebrated ruler, Christian IV. became Duke in 1740 - the same year when the eventual adversary, Frederick II. becomes King of Prussia. The Duke's love affair and secret wedding with

the French dancing girl Marianne Cernasse became a source of romantic speculation. Unfortunately, the marriage of noble with commoner was not recognized by the French crown. Christian acquired the property at Forbach and elevated his Marianne to Countess.

The sons Christian and Wilhelm were not eligible to succeed as dukes of Zweibrücken and had to contend themselves with the titles of Baron of Zweibrücken and Count (and for Wilhelm - Viscount) of Forbach.



Nevertheless, under Duke Christian IV Zweibrücken experienced a remarkable period of spectacular growth and cultural development. The



population increased to more than 100,000. The arts, printing, and architecture flourished. The Duke encouraged and supported commerce and manufacturing. He abolished unenlightened judicial practices and improved the education system. Religious tolerance and diplomatic relations mark this

period. Small wonder that Zweibrückers still grow nostalgic about this golden age. The unabated love for Christian IV has netted them the derisive nickname "Ducal Fools".

Located in the heart of one of Europe's major wine-growing regions, Zweibrückers enjoyed home-grown vintages and developed a zest for life expressed in raising fine horses and beautiful roses. The Alexander Church of this period is a magnificent testimonial of Zweibrücken's baroque past.

The residence in Paris, the Hotel Deux Ponts, was a direct link with France and served as embassy from which Christian fostered a personal friendship with the French king.



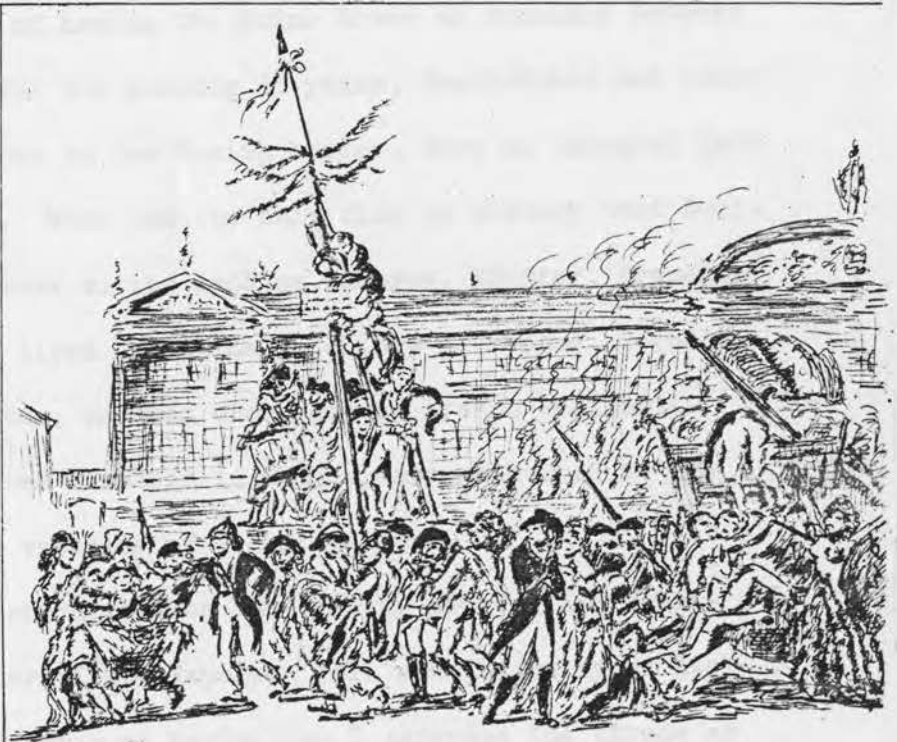
The activation of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts falls, of course, into this period and symbolizes Zweibrücken's brief, but meteoric rise to international prominence. Humane recruiting practices brought volunteers of good will, rather than ruffians kept together only by stern discipline. The regiment soon marched off to Saxony to serve under Soubise. The combined army of French and German troops suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Prussians in the Battle of Rossbach in November 1757. However, it was not the conduct of the troops, but a lack of leadership that resulted in the disaster. The following year the regiment distinguished itself at Sondershausen. In other battles of the Seven-Year War the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment stood firm. The defeat at Rossbach, however, rankled and the chance to redeem itself made the voyage to America a welcome opportunity to gain martial glory. Yorktown saw the Regiment at its best!

The end of the Seven-Year War brought considerable territorial gains for France. The acquisition of the Province of Lorraine in 1763 put Zweibrücken's Lützelstein, parts of Kleeburg, and even Forbach into French territory and wedded the Duchy still more tightly to the Bourbons. It was in this period, but after the death of Christian IV in 1775, that the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was deployed to America. The Convention of 1776 renewed the terms of the regiment's status as German Infantry with Karl August II, the successor of the capable and popular Christian IV. The "Fat Duke" was fated to see the dawning of a new era - The French Revolution!

REVOLUTION SWEEPS EUROPE

Yearnings for independence, for social justice, for casting off the yokes of serfdom, and the quest for liberty so successfully demonstrated by the American Revolution in which the Zweibrückers took part, spread across the Atlantic and fanned the fires of discontent in France. Uprisings against an unjust social order were nurtured by cries for Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood, and flared into bloody revolution. Unfortunately, lofty ideals degenerated into mob rule, toppled the existing order, viciously created chaos, and unleashed unbridled passions.

Zweibrücken was drawn into the ever widening circle of revolutionary fervor. The famous Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment passed into French proprietorship as 99th Infantry Regiment of the Line. Disgruntled citizens and riff-raff from across the border made the last Duke Karl August II a fugitive and burned the lavish palace he had built.



The French Revolution reaches Zweibrücken - February 1793

modified from a lithograph by Karl Kaspar Pitz - zweibrücken museum

With anarchy reigning, armies marched again and soon banded together under the eagles of Napoleon and national ideals of grandeur. A French army once more took Zweibrücken and left destruction and misery. The population was reduced to 96,000 and despair reigned.

THE NAPOLEONIC ERA

The weak and defeated little lands of Germany could not resist the energy and fervor of brilliantly led French armies. There was little resistance when, in 1801, the new emperor of France realized the ancient French dream of having the Rhine River as boundary between the two nations. Thus, for the ensuing 15 years, Zweibrücken and other lands extending all the way to the Danish border, were an integral part of the Napoleonic Empire. This was the only time in history that Zweibrücken, together with other cities such as Cologne, Münster, Bremen, Amsterdam, and Hamburg, lived under the Tricolors of France. Germans, and Zweibrückers among them, marched once more in French regiments. During Napoleon's ill-fated campaign in Russia, many succumbed to the rigors of winter and the vastness of a hostile land.

Opposition to French domination and tyranny mounted and culminated in the Wars of Liberation. Napoleon fell and the Duchy of Zweibrücken became part of Bavaria as Maximilian I ascended the throne as Bavaria's first king in 1816. The legacy of Napoleonic rule was the meter as standard measure, judicial practices of the Napoleonic Code now incorporated into German Law, a system of roads to provide for speedy movement of military columns, and a new map of re-apportioned Europe.

ZWEIBRÜCKEN TODAY

No longer an independent Duchy, Zweibrücken basked in past glories and turned to more mundane tasks such as building railroads and breeding fine horses. The industrial revolution introduced new industries and a pace in keeping with machines. Zweibrücken became part of Bismarck's united Germany. The Rose Garden attained fame for its splendor of colors. Two World Wars swept over the city. As bordertown Zweibrücken experienced the evacuation of the civilian populace and the disruption of normal everyday events. The most terrible disaster was the bombing of the town by squadrons of Royal Canadian Air Force planes. This took place on the 14th of March 1945 - just a few weeks before World War Two ended - and old Zweibrücken crumbled under the onslaught and was swept by an all-devouring holocaust. Famous buildings like the ducal palace, the Alexander Church, and the Spital Tower were reduced to rubble. Advancing American units took the city. At that time the last vestiges of the past, Nymphenburg porcelain figures of Royal Deux-Ponts soldiers, disappeared. (See illustration on Page O 4)

French occupation followed and the Royal Canadian Air Force established a base. Gradually Zweibrücken arose again through the dogged determination of its citizens. The palace was reconstructed to become the seat of the Supreme Court for Rhineland-Palatinate. A new Alexander Church rose above the ashes of the old. In perfect cooperation with the RCAF, Zweibrückers adopted sports like hockey. The United States Air Force took over when the Canadians left and Zweibrücken remains the home of many units of the NATO alliance.

Zweibrücken, the City of Two Bridges, links the Old World with the New and ties erstwhile enemies in bonds of friendship. American Bicentennial celebrations provided the opportunity to re-establish historic connections to emphasize a shared heritage and strengthen ties of friendship. Zweibrücken and Yorktown have become partners in the common quest for historic truth and have discovered a mutually shared history. A number of material things form tangible evidence of a deep friendship. At Redoubt Nine on the Yorktown Battlefield, markers extol the French contribution and credit Guillaume de Deux-Ponts with leading the charge to capture the important outer work.

Representatives have visited each others communities and many personal friendships were woven. During the visit of the Zweibrücken Delegation to Yorktown in October 1976, a beautiful leather case was presented to the President of the United States and a second to the Park Service. The cases contain beautifully executed greetings and a historic message together with a copy of the original recruiting poster for the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment. For Mr. Tröss the visit to Redoubt Nine was the culmination of many years of work dedicated to the regiment which had stormed this outpost 200 years earlier. He was deeply moved as he stood above the abatis where his Zweibrückers had hacked their way into the enemy-held fortress. The wreath laid by the delegation was dedicated to those who had given their lives at Yorktown. (See VIII 19)

A party of official representatives from the County of York in Virginia prepares to visit Zweibrücken in June of 1978 to celebrate the Feast of Roses. The two bridges of Zweibrücken are no longer intended to prevent access to a fortified customs house, but serve as bridge to the world and to the hearts of friends near and far. Zweibrücken is the pivot to continents and to nations brought together through friendship and amity.

Tabb, York County, Virginia

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wolf prow
February 1978





The Establishment

of the Regiment



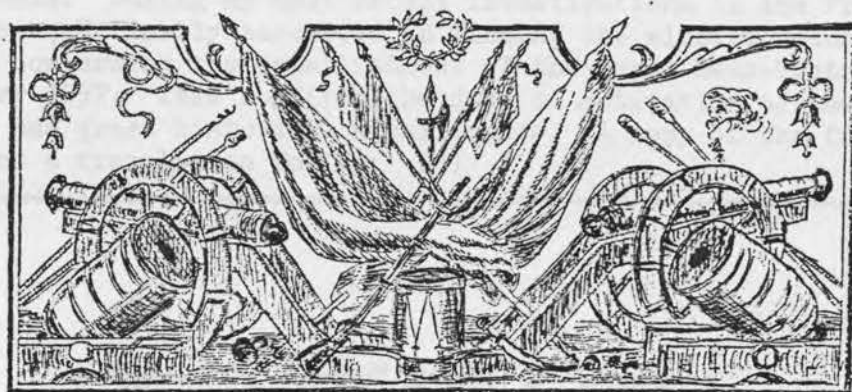
ROYAL DEUX-PONTS

by Rudolf Karl Tröss

June 1973

translated by Wolf Prow





ORDONNANCE DU ROI,

Portant création d'un Régiment d'Infanterie Allemande, sous le titre de Royal-Deux-Ponts.

Du 19 Février 1757.

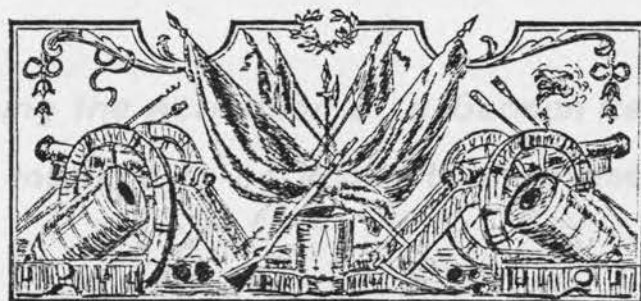
DE PAR LE ROI.

SA MAJESTE' ayant jugé à propos de prendre à son service & à sa solde, un corps d'Infanterie dont le Duc des Deux-Ponts a fait la levée dans ses Etats, & que ce Prince lui a offert pour en former un Régiment, sous le titre de *Royal-Deux-Ponts*, Elle a ordonné & ordonne ce qui suit.

The Establishment of the Regiment

Royal Deux-Ponts

For years I have searched for the activation document of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts. During my most recent investigations in the French Foreign Office in Paris, I finally succeeded in finding the elusive document: The Royal decree concerning the establishment of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment of 19 February 1757. This confirms the date of activation of the Zweibrücken Regiment and has great historical significance. A copy of the front page of the decree and a translation follow: (1)



ORDONNANCE DU ROI,

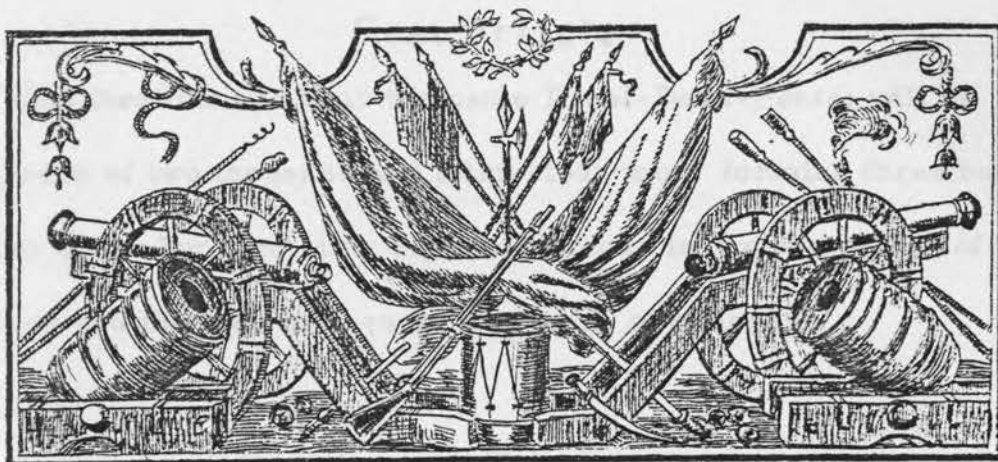
*Portant création d'un Régiment d'Infanterie Allemande, sous le titre de
Royal-Deux-Ponts.*

Du 19 Février 1757.

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A MAJESTE ayant jugé à propos de prendre à son service & à sa solde, un corps d'Infanterie dont le Duc des Deux-Ponts a fait la levée dans ses États, & que ce Prince lui a offert pour en former un Régiment, sous le titre de *Royal-Deux-Ponts*, Elle a ordonné & ordonne ce qui suit.



DECREE OF THE KING

*Concerning the Activation of a German Regiment
of Infantry. to be known by the name of*

Royal - Deux - Ponts

given on the 19th of February 1757

BY ORDER OF THE KING



IS MAJESTY, having considered it appropriate and proper to place under his service & pay a Corps of Infantry which was levied by the Duke of Zweybrücken in his domains & that this prince has offered to form a Regiment under the name Royal-Deux-Ponts, hereby decrees & further directs the following:

First Article

This Regiment to bear the name Royal-Deux-Ponts; will be composed of two thousand and thirty-four men, forming three battalions of six hundred sixty eight men each, in six companies of one hundred and thirteen men each, exclusive of officers.

II.

To command a company each is allocated: one captain as commanding officer; along with one secondary Captain; one ranking or first Lieutenant; one second Lieutenant; & one subaltern, with the exception of the first company of each battalion where an ensign as bearer of flags is appointed to serve in lieu of the subaltern. (2)

The aforementioned companies will be paid monthly, to wit: with eighty-six livres each for the commanding officer, & the secondary captain. In like manner sixty livres for the ranking lieutenant; fifty-one livres for the second lieutenant & forty-eight livres for each of the subalterns & ensigns. His majesty desires that the Infantry captain be paid thirteen livres per month for each of the hundred and thirteen men of which the company will be made up; he will maintain & pay a first sergeant thirteen sols, two others twelve sols each, to a fourth eleven sols, to a provisioning non-commissioned officer & to a master-at-arms nine sols each; an armed escort for provisionary

eight sols; four corporals, a professional carpenter & three drummers each seven sols; to eight veteran soldiers & eight grenadiers six sols each and to the eighty two fuseliers five sols & six deniers each. (3)

III.

In addition to base pay, each captain is entitled to fourteen bonuses of thirteen livres each per month when his company musters at full complement of one hundred thirteen men; twelve at one hundred and ten; ten at one hundred and eight; eight at one hundred and six; six at one hundred four; four at one hundred and two; whereas no payment shall be made when the effective strength of his company numbers less than the given number of one hundred and two men.

IV.

The staff of the aforementioned regiment is composed of an acting colonel; (4) a Lieutenant Colonel; a commandant for each of the second and third battalions; one major; three acting majors & an interpreter, & be paid each month with five hundred and sixty livres for the acting colonel as much as is due him in his capacity of acting colonel & independent of his pay as commander; only for the maintenance of field

chaplain, medical technician, Judge Advocate, Provost Marshall, Legal scribe, the drum major, of the two legal assistants, & the executioner; one hundred and fifty for the Lieutenant colonel; sixty livres for the commandant of each of the second and third battalions over and above their pay as senior captains. Two hundred livres for the major, ninety livres for each of the three acting majors who have no other duties in the Regiment, & one hundred livres for the interpreter.

V.

The Regiment mentioned herein will receive military pay and allowances beginning the 1st day of April next on the basis of inspections which will have been carried out by expressly authorized Commissioners of War. His Majesty will maintain this Regiment which will exist in peace time of two battalions in the same composition as their other Regiments of German infantry. His Majesty decrees & enjoins all governors and general lieutenants in their provinces, the governors & commandants in their cities & places, the superintendents in their provinces & at the borders, the general inspectors of their infantry troops, the commissioners of war & all other officers, that they are obliged to extend an assisting hand in the execution of the foregoing.

Given at Versailles on the nineteenth day of February, Seventeen
hundred and fifty seven.

Signed/Louis
and most lowly R. De Voyer

AT PARIS, THE ROYAL PRINTING OFFICE, 1757

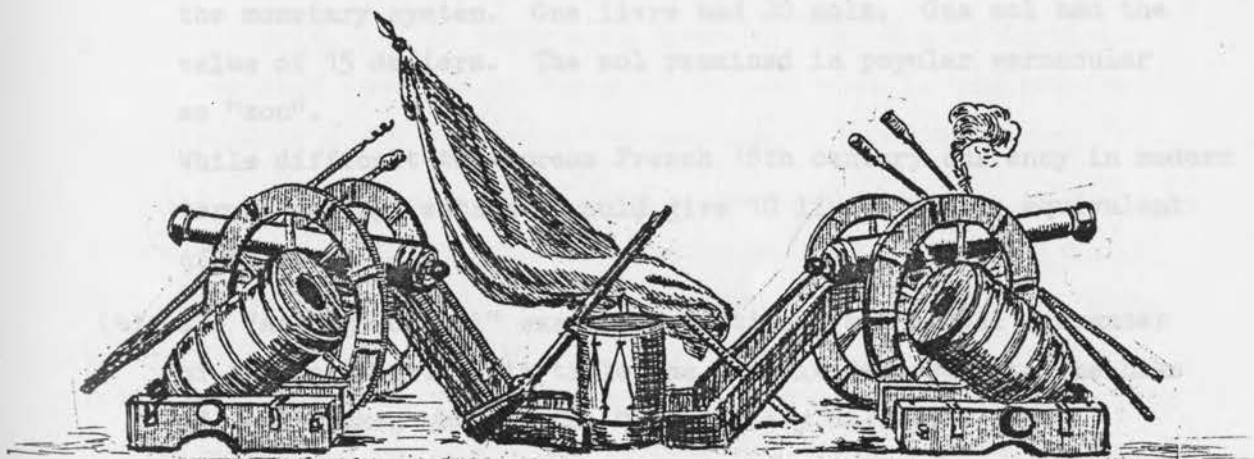
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Translated from German:
Wolf Prow

1 April 1976
Tabb, Virginia

Revised translation from the French text:
Richard Guthrie

12 April 1977
Newport News, Virginia



Translator's Notes about the Activation Decree

- (1) In the original publication of this series, in October 1976, the Activation Decree was translated from German into English and contained numerous errors arising from successive stages of translation. Through the courtesy of Mr. Tröss the French text has become available and a more accurate revised translation supersedes the earlier version. For assistance with the French text I am indebted to my colleague Richard Guthrie, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages at Christopher Newport College, Newport News, Virginia.
- (2) French officer ranks for subsidized regiments of the period were complicated and based on a ratio of about one officer for 19 men. In this translation, French officer ranks are given as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Capitaine en pied | Infantry captain and company commander |
| Capitaine en second | Secondary Captain |
| Premier Lieutenant | First, or ranking Lieutenant |
| Second Lieutenant | Second Lieutenant |
| Lieutenant en second | Junior Lieutenant, or Subaltern |
| Enseigne pour porter les Drapeaux | - Ensign, or Flag Bearer |
- (In German: "Fähnrich")
- (3) The French Livre was the major unit of French currency until 1796. At that time the French Revolution brought a complete revision of the monetary system. One livre had 20 sols. One sol had the value of 15 deniers. The sol remained in popular vernacular as "sou".
- While difficult to express French 18th century currency in modern terms, a rough estimate would give 10 livres as the equivalent of \$2.00.
- (4) The "Acting Colonel" was the operational and actual commander of the regiment. This title was used in deference to the Duke of Zweybrücken who was the "Proprietary Colonel".

By today's standards, 60 livres would amount to about \$12.00 while 13 Thalers would be about \$4.25. Small wonder that the French army attracted swarms of camp followers and a group of permanently attached persons deft in such arts as manicuring, hair styling, massaging, food preparation, tailoring, whig making, and other such skills. It is also obvious that rulers with a choice between stern and frugal Prussians and lavish and luxurious French rulers would not be hard put to reach a decision.

The year 1757 marks the second year of the so called Seven Years' War (1756-1763) in which France was allied with Austria, Russia, Sweden, Saxony and Poland against Prussia supported by England. On the 5th of November 1757 the French Army of 20,000, and augmented by the "Reichsarmee" of which the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was a part, clashed with the Prussians at Rossbach. The Allies commanded a force of 41,000 men, while Frederick's army numbered 21,600. Despite their overwhelming numerical superiority, the Allies suffered a crushing defeat and the Zweibrücken Regiment was haunted by the stigma of Rossbach for a long time. (See article: Recruiting for the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts and the Section on deserters) In all fairness, the Zweibrücken Regiment was actually a non-participant in the decisive phases of the encounter and it was the leadership exercised by the French commander Soubise that contributed to the disaster. At Yorktown the regiment redeemed itself. It is important, however, that the activation of the regiment occurred at times of war and when it was customary for Germans to fight each other as members of opposing camps.

The Decree activating the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment is a primary source of historical information and highlights the spirit of the times. The revolutionary ardor that would soon sweep Europe is already born and the document reveals the inequities and gross social injustices that fanned the fires of revolution and gave rise to the desire of the common man to narrow the gap between officer and man, lord and tenant, master and slave.

Herzogtum Zweibrücken mit den dazugehörigen Gebietsteilen im Jahre 1778.

Erläuterung:

Gebietssteile, welche zum Herzogtum
Zweibrücken gehören.

Maßstab 1:400 000

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100



II

RECRUITING

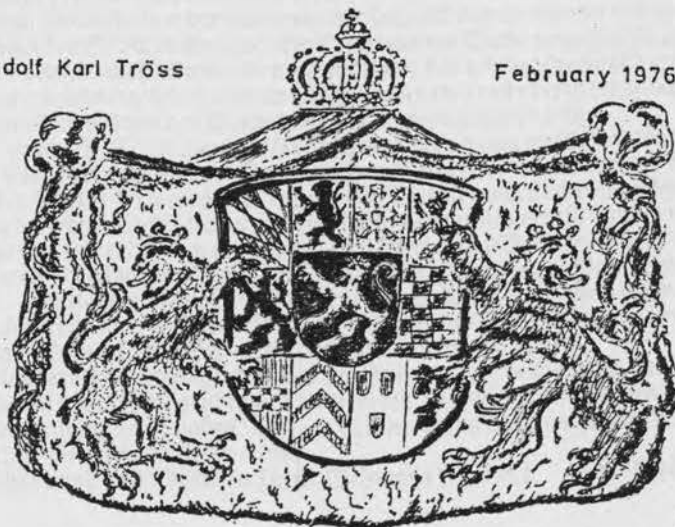
FOR THE

REGIMENT

ROYAL DEUX-PONTS

by Rudolf Karl Tröss

February 1976



translated by Wolf Prow



Un Serres Gnaden Wir
CHRISTIAN der IV^{te},

Pfalz-Gräf bey Rhein, Herzog in Bayern, Graf zu Seldenz, Sponheim
und Rappoltstein, Herr zu Hohenack &c. &c.

Setzten hiemit zu wissen: Demnach unsere gnädigste Intention dahingehet, daß in Unserem Fürstenthum Zweybrücken, der Werbung vor das Regiment Royal Deux-ponts in allen billigen Sachen möglichster Vorstuhb geschehen, und niemand bey schwerer Strafe sich unterstehen solle einige Hinderniß desentsatz in den Weg zu legen, nochweniger aber diejenige Leute, welche Lust haben, Dienste zuzunehmen, durch Abtrabben abwendig zumachen, dahingegen auch die Werber aller Gewaltthätigkeiten und Mißhandlungen gegen Unsr Unterthanen bey gleichmäßig scharfen Einsehen sich zu enthalten haben: Daß Wir nicht nur Unsern Regierungs-Rath de Savigny gnädigst ernannt haben, alle vorkommende Klagen und Beschwerden sowohl der Werber als Unterthanen anzuhören und an Uns berichtlich gelangen zu lassen; sondern auch zu Verhütung dergleichen Beschwerden eine besondere Verordnung zu machen gnädigst gut gefunden; Ordnen und wollen demnach:

I. Daß soferne ein Werber sich unterfangen würde, die Unterthanen mit Schlägen oder Stößen zu tractiren, oder aber ein und den andern aus seinem Hause mit Gewalt wegzuführen; alie bald der Schultheiß oder Gerichtsmann des Orts denselben in Verhaft nehmen und anhero dem Willigen Hauptmann Enaelmann einliefern, auch sogleich die Klage dem Regierungs-Rath de Savigny schriftlich übergeben solle, wo alsdann die wahre Beschaffenheit der Sache untersucht, und der Verbrecher oder auch der falsche Anzeiger hart bestraft werden wird.

II. Wird allen und jeden Unterthanen erlaubt, mit denen Werb-Soldaten eine Maas Wein, woran sie aber ihren gebührenden Antheil zu bezahlen haben, trinken zu dürfen, ohne deshalben zum Soldatenstand gezwungen zu werden, Würde hingegen

III. Ein oder der andre, wie öfters geschicht, denen Soldaten Hofnung machen, sich anwerben zu lassen, und zu Uns Kosten Anlaß geben: so solle derjenige, welcher länger bey den Soldaten sitzen bleibt, als die erste Maas Wein dauert, gehalten seyn, Soldat zu werden, oder wenigstens nach Beschaffenheit der Umstände die Zech und andere etwaige Unkosten allein zu bezahlen; im widrigen Fall der Schultheiß auf des Soldaten Ansuchen den Unterthan mit Nacht einzuschicken, und Bericht an den Regierungs-Rath de Savigny zu erstatten hat, damit die Umstände untersucht, und das gehörige verfügt werde.

IV. Alle und jede, so im Wirths-Haus oder anderwärts Handgeld nehmen werden, es sey im Ernst oder in der Intention die Werber herinzuführen, sollen als Recruten anzusehen, und mit den Werbern herein zu gehen gehalten seyn.

V. Dem Wirth soll einem Soldaten mehr als eine halbe Maas Wein auf Credit geben, und wann ein Soldat weiter trinken will, sich jedesmalen die getrundene halbe Maas bezahlen lassen: Sollte aber ein Soldat vor einen Recruten anzuwerben Geld von Wörthen haben, so kan alsdann der Wirth oder wer es will, falls er den Recruten würdlich sieht, solches vorschreiben, auch der Wirth noch auf fünf Gulden zu verzeihen Credit geben, woben jedoch in acht zu nehmen ist, daß ein solcher, welcher Geld vorschreibt, dem Recruten selbiges in die Hand geben, soaleich mit dem Werber und Recruten sich hieher verfügen, und sein Geld bey dem Kaufmann Letto begeben soll, wo er alsdann vor seinen Gang noch eine extra Vergütung zu sechs Kreuzer vor die Stunde zu empfangen hat. Sollte aagentheils einer Credit geben oder Geld vorschreiben, und versäumen mit dem Werber soaleich hieher zu kommen, sozt erst dann, wenn der Werber ausbezahlt und das Geld verthan ist, sich um seine Schuld melden: So soll er nichts zu fordern und den Schaden sich selbst benymessen haben.

Wie Wir nun gnädigst wollen, daß dieser Unserer Verordnung ihrem ganzen Inhalt nach, vollkommen nachgelebet werde, weshalb die Beamten und Schultheissen mit Ernst darüber zu halten hiemit ausdrücklich anzuweisen und bedeutet werden, daß sie im widrigen Fall vor allen entspringenden Schaden zu stehen haben: also soll selbige zu jedermänniglich Bekanntmachung gedruckt und an öffentlichen Orten affiairt werden.

Urfundlich Unserer eigenhändigen Unterschrift und besgedruckten Fürstl. Geheimen Insigels. Zweybrücken
den 17^{ten} Januarii 1759.

L. S.

CHRISTIAN Pfalz-Gräf.

In the Grace of God
We, CHRISTIAN IV.

II 16

Count Palatine by Rhine, Duke in Bavaria
Count of Beldenz, Sponheim and Rappoltstein,
Lord of Hohenack, etc.

Hereby deign to let it be known: WHEREAS is it our most gracious Intention that in Our Duchy of Zweybrücken recruiting for the Regiment Royal Deuxponts proceed with the utmost expedience and that no-one under heavy penalty shall dare to obstruct this process, nor those persons who seek to prevent men who wish to enter service by seeking to deter them from such action; on the other hand also the recruiters who must refrain from Acts of Violence against and mistreatment of Our subjects under equally severe penalty: THAT We have not only graciously appointed Our Government Counselor de Savigny to hear all charges and complaints brought before him by recruiters as well as by Our subjects and to convey these matters to Us in writing, but also to promulgate a special ordinance for the prevention of such complaints as We most graciously find good and proper;

We further decree and accordingly desire:

I. WHEREAS a recruiter would dare to beat or knock about Our subjects, or in one instance or another take the subject from his house by force, then the village mayor or the local law enforcing officer shall take same into custody and deliver him to Militia Captain Engelmann, at the same time charges should be filed with Counselor de Savigny where the truth of the matter will thereupon be duly investigated, and the criminal shall be severely punished.

II. WHEREAS it is permissible for all and every subject to drink a measure of wine with soldiers on recruiting duty - provided they pay their share of the cost - it is not to be construed to be a compulsion to join military service.

III. WHEREAS, on the other hand, as it occurs frequently, one gives hopes to the soldiers to let himself be inducted and causes expenses to mount: Then he who continues to sit with the soldiers beyond the first measure of wine shall be obliged to become a soldier, or at least, according to the circumstances, pay out of his own pocket for food and drink and any other expenses arising therefrom; otherwise the village mayor will, upon request of the soldier, send Our subject to jail under guard and bring the matter to the attention of Counselor de Savigny so that the circumstances can be investigated and appropriate action be taken.

IV. WHEREAS all and sundry who in a tavern, or elsewhere, accept bounty money, be it in earnest or with the intention to deceive the recruiters, shall be regarded as recruits and will be held to abide by the agreement made with the recruiters.

V. WHEREAS no innkeeper or tavern owner shall give a soldier more than one half measure of wine on credit, and - when the soldier continues to drink - then he shall insist each time upon payment of the already consumed half measure: However, should a soldier in the process of endeavoring to have a prospective recruit join the service be in need of money, then the tavern keeper, or whoever it may be - if he indeed sees the recruit - may advance the money and the innkeeper may grant credit up to five Gulden for food and drink. Care must be taken that a person who advances cash place it in the hand of the recruit and immediately proceed hither with recruiter and recruit and demand his money from the merchant Cetto, where he is to receive a bonus of six Kreuzer per hour for his troubles. Should, on the other hand, one giving credit or advancing cash fail to come immediately hither with the recruiter and instead comes to claim payment of the debt after the recruiter pays off and the money is spent: Then he shall demand nothing and accept the loss as being due his own fault.

We now graciously desire that Our Decree in its full text be fully complied with, for which reason officials and mayors are hereby expressly enjoined to observe its provisions seriously and that they will be held accountable for all damages arising from non-compliance. The same shall also be printed for everyone's knowledge and be affixed at public places.

We have set our hand and imprinted the Secret Ducal Seal hereunder.

Zweybrücken, the 17th day of January in the Year 1759.



Christian, Pfaltz-Graf

RECRUITING FOR THE

II 2

REGIMENT ROYAL DEUX-PONTS

by Rudolf Karl Tross

translated by Wolf Prow

Christian IV. Duke of Zweybrücken (1735-1775) always placed the title "Count Palatinate" above that of duke. In doing so he must have been aware of the historical fact that "the house of Wittelsbach was instrumental in the creation of the County Palatinate at the Rhine as Principality of the land dating back to the year 1241." (1) It is, therefore, not surprising that the "Decree of the 17th of January 1759" (2) shown on the preceding page as reproduction and in translation, is signed by the duke with emphasis on the title "Count Palatinate". In diplomatic correspondence with the French crown, Christian IV. customarily signed as "Prince Palatin Duc de Deux-Ponts".

HUMANE RECRUITMENT

The decree concerns itself with regulations about "Recruitment for the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts". In the bicentennial year of the United States, this document is of particular significance. The decree presents incontestable evidence that the duke did not impress soldiers for service in his regiment, but directed that recruiting be carried out in a humane manner: ... "that recruiters must refrain from all acts of violence and mistreatment against our subjects." The document also specifies: "That in so far as a recruiter would dare to beat or knock about our subjects, or in one instance or another take the subject from his house by force, the village mayor or local law enforcing officer shall take him into custody ... and that the criminal be severely punished."

RAISING OF SEVERAL NEW BATTALIONS

II 3

By a decree of Christian IV. that predates this document by three years, given on the 5th of October 1756, and drafted by governmental Secretary Bettinger, recruits are sought "to raise several new Battalions. For this purpose, a bounty in the amount of a gulden to as much as an imperial taler is authorized for that person who "brings a man to the recruiting officers who is five feet and one inch and no less in height according to local standards of measure".(3) At the time this decree was promulgated, the regiment was in the midst of the Seven-Year-War (1756-1763).

"HE WHO SENDS A HANDSOME MAN TO
THE REGIMENT SHALL BE
AMPLY AWARDED"

The famous recruiting poster (Affliche de Recrutement) of 1775 brought to public attention the "German Royal French Infantry Regiment of Zweibrücken" or the "Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment".



There is no denying that serious disagreements and even bodily violence occurred not infrequently between recruiters and inexperienced young men.

However, the fact that in the Cleeburg recruiting office in Lorraine alone about 1,000 young men could be brought under the colors in the course of a few weeks, (5) attests to the generally voluntary enlistment practices of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts.

THE VOCATIONS OF ENLISTEES

From which social environments did the recruits come who reported in response to the recruiting brandishments and enlisted for periods of 4 to 8 years? This question I have thoroughly investigated and came up with several interesting findings.

The following information is derived from the report concerning "Inspection des Régiments Royal Deux-Ponts, faite par M. le Comte de Lan Insp. Divisiones et par M. Le Baron de Falckenhayn, au Neufbrisach le 12 Septembre 1789". (6)

THE OCCUPATIONS OF ROYAL DEUX-PONTS SOLDIERS

<u>Occupations</u>	<u>Number</u>
Field Surgeons	4
Bakers	21
Carpenters	19
Shoe makers	45
Agricultural workers	882
Smiths	11
Stone masons	34
Cabinet makers, Turners	20
Whig makers	4
Saddlemakers	5
Locksmiths	10
Tailors	63
Tanners	5
TOTAL	<u>1123</u>

THE HEIGHT OF THE SOLDIERS

<u>Height</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Metric Equivalents</u>
5 foot (pied) 1 inch (pouce) and under	45	165 cm or less
5 foot (pied) 1-2 inches	138	165 -168 cm
5 foot (pied) 2-3 inches	223	168-170 cm
5 foot (pied) 3-4 inches	279	170 -173 cm
5 foot (pied) 4-5 inches	183	173-176 cm
5 foot (pied) 5-6 inches	120	176-179 cm
5 foot (pied) 6-7 inches	77	179-181 cm
5 foot (pied) 7 inches and above	<u>58</u>	taller than 181 cm
TOTAL <u>1,123</u>		

The "foot" was then the primary means of linear measurement in most countries. In France, and of course in the French Army, the "old Parisian or royal French foot" was used (pied de roi). To determine the physical height of recruits, a measuring stick called a "toiser" having a length of 1.949 m was employed. This length corresponded with six pieds or feet, or 72 pouces or inches. Thus, a pied de roi or "royal foot" is 0.3248 m; a pouce, or inch, is 0.027 m.

Note: Measures in the U.S.: One foot = 0.305 m; one inch = 0.0254 m, thus, with 12.1 inches, the French measurement was slightly longer than the English foot.

The average height of the Royal Deux-Ponts soldier of 1789 was thus 1.72 m, or 5 feet, 7 inches.

• • • • •

During the inspection of 1789, the regiment consisted of the peacetime complement of only two battalions. The extremely detailed inspection report of 31 pages makes mention of the fact that the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts still had 387 men on the rolls who had participated in the American War of Independence.

x x x

In the year 1773 Baron de Sinclaire, Colonel and Commanding officer of the Infantry Regiment Royal Suedois - a Swedish Regiment - that, was garrisoned at Landau in the Palatinate in the years 1783-1785 at the same that the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was stationed there, published a three-volume book in French entitled "Institutions Militaire ou Traite' Elementaire de Tactique". This work on military science can be viewed as standard text applicable to all regiments of this era. It is remarkable that this significant tome was printed in the "Aux Deux-Ponts a' Imprimerie Ducale" - in other words, the Printing Shop of the Duke of Zweibrücken. (Available in the Bibliotheca Bipontina, or Zweibrücken Library)

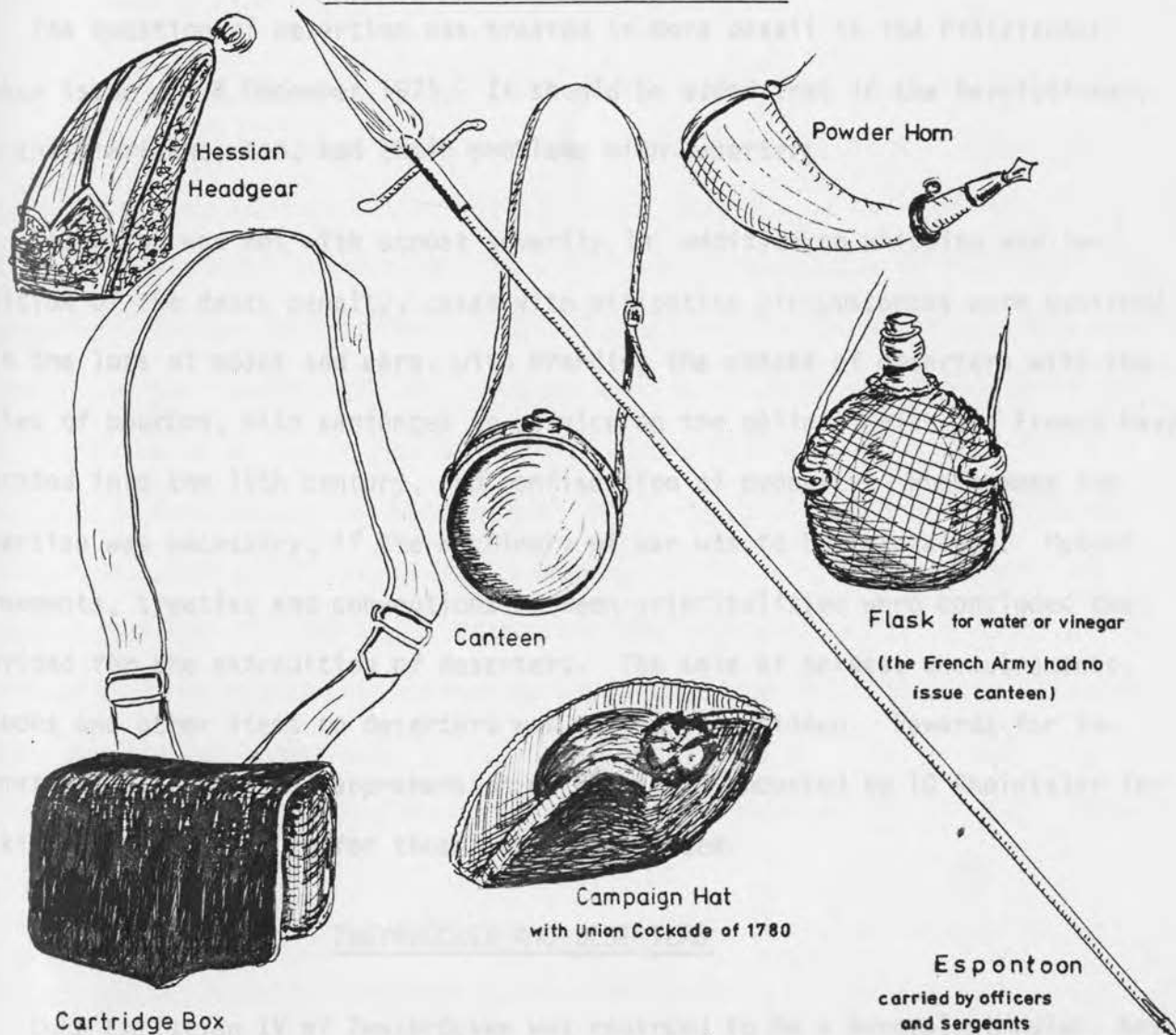
The book of Colonel de Sinclaire, which also contains a treatise on the Theory of martial arts, offers information that in those days two types of recruitment were carried out: recruitment by force and recruitment through ruses and dishonest practices. Both were viewed as corrupt and inhumane. A third type, based on serving four to eight years upon induction and voluntary enlistment, was generally considered the best for the simple reason that it was the least expensive and netted recruits who were regarded as men of good will.

The following qualifications were expected of prospective soldiers: inquisitive eyes, a straight bearing with head held high, a broad chest, strong shoulders, powerful hands, long arms, a small abdomen, lively step, and muscular legs and feet. As long as other qualifications were met, concessions were made in regards to physical height since "tall guys" were becoming a rare commodity. However, physical size had to fit the type of duty in a variety of military units. The most suitable age group for military service was from 17 (even 15) to 30 years of age.

TOBACCO, LIQUOR, AND VINEGAR

Two items were considered by the soldier as matters of greatest importance: tobacco and liquor. These commodities deserved the utmost attention. A third item crucial to a soldier's well-being was vinegar. It was seen as a preventative against disease and care was taken to have vinegar of the best quality available at all times. It was common practice and strictly enforced that each soldier carry a quantity of vinegar to last several days in order to add a few drops to every swig of water.

Some Accoutrements of 1781



THE DESERTERS

Desertion - failure of a soldier to return to his unit with the intention to avoid the terms of enlistment - was extraordinarily common in the mercenary armies of the 17th and 18th centuries. "For this reason discipline was extremely severe and articles of war were exceptionally harsh by today's standards. An army made up to a large part of recruited and frequently involuntarily impressed men had to have strict regulations. To prevent desertion as much as possible, elaborate precautions were taken continually during marches, as well as in encampments. Hussars were frequently charged to carry out such orders".

The question of desertion was treated in more detail in the Pfälzischer Merkur issue of 16 December 1971. It should be added that in the Revolutionary War the Americans, too, had their problems with deserters.

Desertion was met with utmost severity. In addition to whipping and imposition of the death penalty, cases with mitigating circumstances were punished with the loss of noses and ears, with branding the cheeks of deserters with the lilies of bourbon, with sentences to service on the galleys which the French Navy operated into the 19th century, and confiscation of property. Punishment for desertion was necessary, if the machinery of war was to be maintained. Mutual agreements, treaties and conventions between principalities were concluded that provided for the extradition of deserters. The sale of horses, accoutrements, weapons and other items to deserters was strictly forbidden. Rewards for information leading to the apprehension of deserters amounted to 10 Rheintaler for walking deserters and 20 for those who were mounted.

ZWEYBRÜCKEN AND DESERTERS

Duke Christian IV. of Zweybrücken was regarded to be a benevolent ruler, but

the establishment of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts coincided with the War of France against the Prussia of Federick the Great. The routing of the regiment at Rossbach and subsequent campaigns against the Prussians took a heavy toll in lives and material. The Zweybrückers seemed to have been lukewarm to the idea of fighting Prussians and desertions increased. The forests of the Palatinate offered refuge for many of these men outside the law. Although Christian IV. forbade his foresters and rangers to consider deserters fair game, he decreed that ... "any ranger or forester who is proved guilty encountering deserters without challenging them and fails to apprehend them, shall be imprisoned for one year."

Deserters caught, were speedily brought to trial and in 1757 bloody executions are documented in heart-rending contemporary documents. Customary executions were carried out by firing squad, hanging, or even archery. Church records were almost standardized in recording the execution of deserters. For example: "On the 15th of March 1757, at 3 o'clock in the morning, Louis Russin, son of Jacques Russin and his espoused wife Marie Anne, nee Papillon, born in Fleury en Brie, Court jurisdiction of Blanbrie eleven miles from Paris, soldier in the company of Baron von Rhöder, a Captain in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts, who after having been sentenced to death by courts-martial and having received the sacrament of penance, was executed by firing squad at the age of 27 here in Homburg and was buried on the same day in the military cemetery behind the German gate."

(Exerpt from the Death Register of the Catholic Parish of St. Michael, Homburg, 1757, page 143)

Other deserters executed in Homburg in 1757 were named Jacobus Krauss, Fiacre Selle, Mathias Hanseler, and Joseph Schmidt.

DESERTIONS IN AMERICA

The Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts did experience desertions in America and, in view of the German populations of Pennsylvania where relatives of Zweibrückers lived, it is surprising that the regiment remained combat-ready and up to strength during the campaign. Records indicate that three members of the regiment deserted after the long and sweltering march to Philipsburg on the 5th of July 1781. They were returned by American patriots and publicly whipped a few days later.

Baron von Closeh, born in Monsheim near Worms and married to a lady of Zweibrücken's court nobility, was an officer of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment and kept a diary of his war experiences in America. He mentions a particularly beautiful village named Frankfurt where deserters of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment allegedly settled. In fact, during the march through Pennsylvania, special measures had to be taken to prevent desertions. Records indicate that a total of 101 men did desert between 1780 and 1783. In the first year only three deserted. In 1781 the number rose to 20 and in 1782, and after the Battle of Yorktown, 60 deserted. In 1783 another 18 left the colors. When compared with the number of those killed in action and those who died (156), desertions were minimal by 18th century standards.

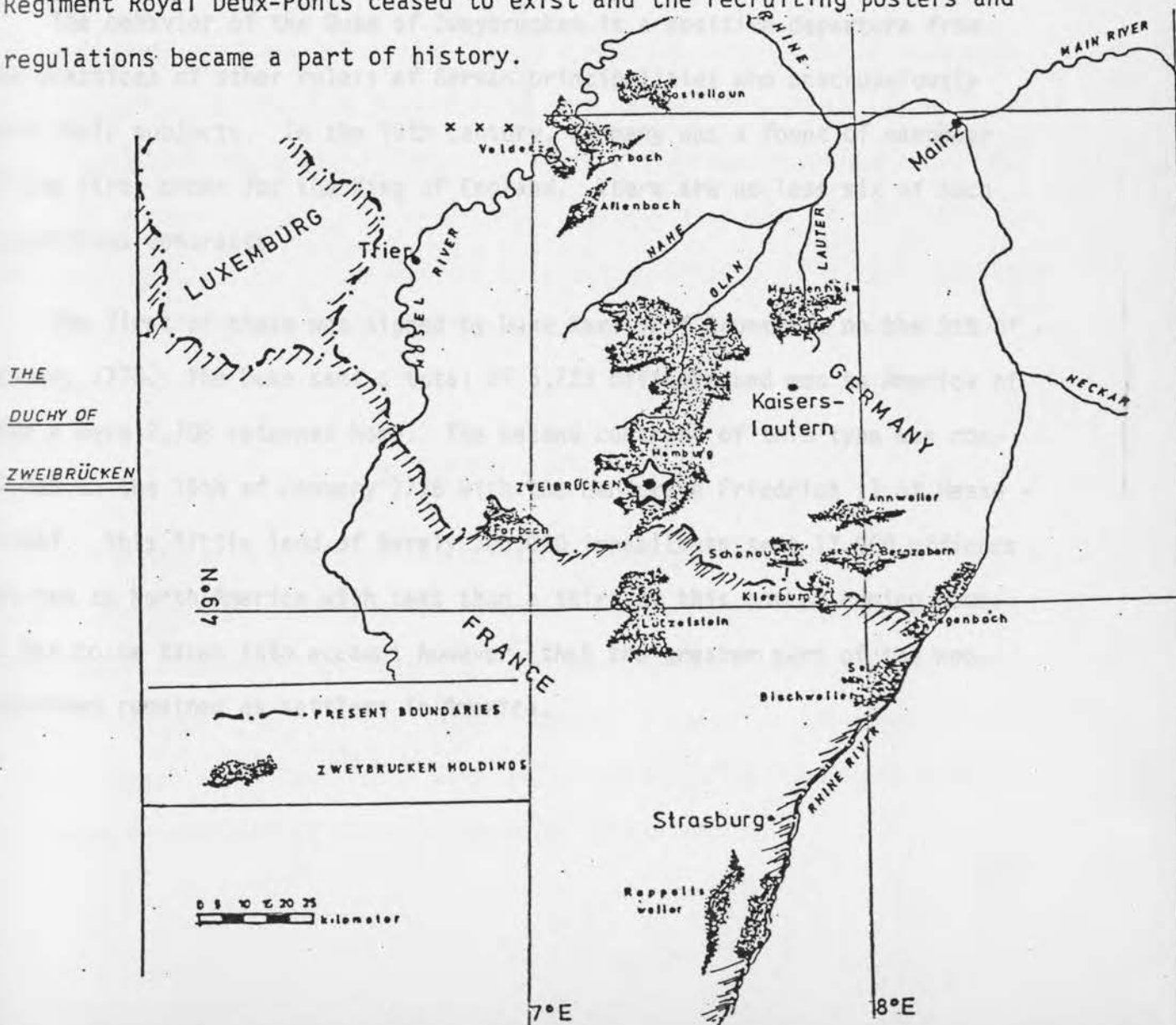
"MORE HUMANE THAN CONTEMPORARIES"

The rulers of Zweibrücken, although they shared the sentiments against desertion, were more humane than their contemporaries. The successor of Christian IV. in 1776 was Karl II., August of Zweibrücken. He reigned during the deployment of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment to America until dethroned by the French Revolution in 1793. He concluded treaties with neighboring states in which provisions were made for the extradition of deserters. It is

significant that the Zweibrücken ruler specifically included the clause ...

"especially since we will not impose the death penalty upon such deserters when no charge other than desertion is brought against them." (City Archives of Anweiler, Convention with the Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt, document of 28 May 1790 #4399 I/25)

The punishment of deserters became more and more lenient as the upheavals of the French Revolution rocked Europe. The proprietorship in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts was slipping away from the Dukes of Zweibrücken and on the 4th of November 1790 it is decreed that the recruiting of subjects for military service in French units be absolutely forbidden until further notice. The Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts ceased to exist and the recruiting posters and regulations became a part of history.



"BOUNTY HUNTERS"

"Bounty Hunters" was the designation for persons who, during the Revolutionary War, would first enlist in the French or even English army, would receive bounty, clothing and advance pay and would then desert in order to join the American Army. Such incidents occurred often. Naturally, such deserters were severely punished when caught and had to give back bounty and pay received.

GERMAN MERCENARIES FOR ENGLAND

The behavior of the Duke of Zweybrücken is a positive departure from the practices of other rulers of German principalities who unscrupulously sold their subjects. In the 18th century, Germany was a fount of manpower of the first order for the King of England. There are no less six of such ignominious contracts.

The first of these was signed by Duke Karl V. of Brunswick on the 9th of January 1776. The Duke sent a total of 5,723 officers and men to America of whom a mere 2,708 returned home. The second contract of this type was concluded on the 15th of January 1776 with the Landgrave Friedrich II. of Hesse - Cassel. This little land of barely 300,000 inhabitants sent 17,000 officers and men to North America with less than a third of this number coming home. It has to be taken into account however, that the greater part of the non-returnees remained as settlers in America.

On the 5th of February 1776 a contract was signed by Duke Wilhelm of Hesse-Hanau, son of Friedrich II. of Hesse-Kassel, to furnish a regiment of infantry and a section of artillery aggregating 900 men. With Prince Friedrich of Waldeck, whose lands had long been a source of mercenaries, a fourth contract was signed on the 17th of March 1776. Through reckless and unscrupulous recruiting methods, this prince managed to raise 1,200 men.

The fifth contract was concluded on the 1st of February 1777 with the Margrave Karl Alexander of Ansbach - Bayreuth. From this region, 2,353 officers and men were sent to America and almost half of them never saw their homeland again.

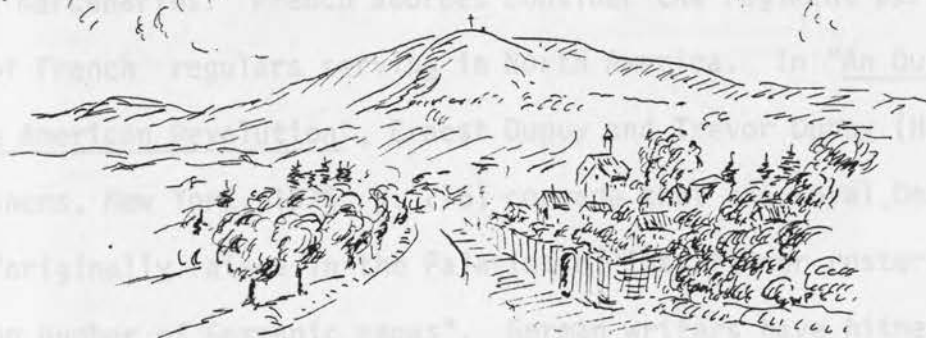
In October 1777 the sixth and last contract was signed and sealed with the absentee landlord Prince Friedrich August of Anhalt/Zerbst, a brother of Empress Catharine the Great of Russia. In this tiny domain of only 20,000 souls, the Prince succeeded in raising an infantry regiment of two battalions with a total strength of 1,119 men for shipment to America.⁽⁷⁾ (But this unit was deployed in Canada and arrived too late for action in the American Revolutionary War)

A HISTORICAL ERROR

The German, and especially the Hessian element, had gained a disproportionate share of the English contingent in America through these infusions of troops or cannonfodder. In the final battle at Yorktown, Germans fought against Germans. To the present day the myth has been maintained in America that the members of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts were either Hessians or even Frenchmen. In this respect a historical error needs to be corrected.

Sources and Remarks:

1. Hans Rall, The County Palatinate at the Rhine as Principality, Pfalzer Heimat, Vol. 26, #2, p. 41
2. Bibliotheca Bipontina: Ducal Decrees, 1812/II, p. 62
3. ditto, p. 61
4. Recruiting Poster, here translated, the original is in the Historical Museum of the City of Strasbourg
5. Chronicle of the Community Hunsbach von Hermann Gerst, Oberlin edition, Strasbourg, 1974, pp. 149-150
6. The original Inspection Report of 12 September 1789 is filed with the Historical Service of the French Army in the Castle of Vincennes
7. The figures on Hessian recruitments are based on John Mollo and Malcolm Mac Gregor "Uniforms of the American War of Independence", pp. 23-27
8. Baron de Sinclaire, Institutions Militaire ou Traite Elementaire de Tactique, Zweybrücken, 1773
9. Rudolf Karl Tröss, Personal Communication, 5 February 1981



The Donnersberg



TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:

This article represents a combination of several of Mr. Tröss writings. "Recruitment for the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts" appeared as special supplement of the Pfälzischer Merkur, #47, published on Wednesday, the 25th of February 1976, p. 7. A section of this article was omitted as it was a verbatim quote from the article "The Flags of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts", printed in the Pfälzischer Merkur on 5 October 1974 and translated on 6 May 1976. A section about Desertions and Executions originally published in the Pfaelzischer Merkur on the 16th of December 1971 has been edited and inserted. A considerable overlap exists, with entire paragraphs being duplicated from one article to another.

x x x

American sources continue to refer to the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment as German mercenaries. French sources consider the regiment part of the contingent of French regulars serving in North America. In "An Outline History of the American Revolution", Ernest Dupuy and Trevor Dupuy (Harper and Row, Publishers, New York, 1975, p. 216) concede that the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment "originally raised in the Palatinate, its officer roster contains an amazing number of Germanic names". German writers have hitherto been vehement in their opprobium of Hessian dukes who literally sold their subjects to the English crown. In recent years, the work of Mr. Tröss and others has revealed that the Zweybrücken regiment was made up of Palatinate, Alsatian, Lorrainian, and other Germans with a sprinkling of French, Swiss and even Swedish officers. They were not mercenaries sold as cannonfodder. The use of interpreters was required and important documents and orders were translated and read to the

troops in their native language. Since many personal relationships existed between Hessians, Palatinate Germans and German settlers in America, touching scenes occurred that transcended the enmities of war. As a unit of regulars, the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts acquitted itself well and played an important part in the achievement of American Independence by its role in the battle of Yorktown.

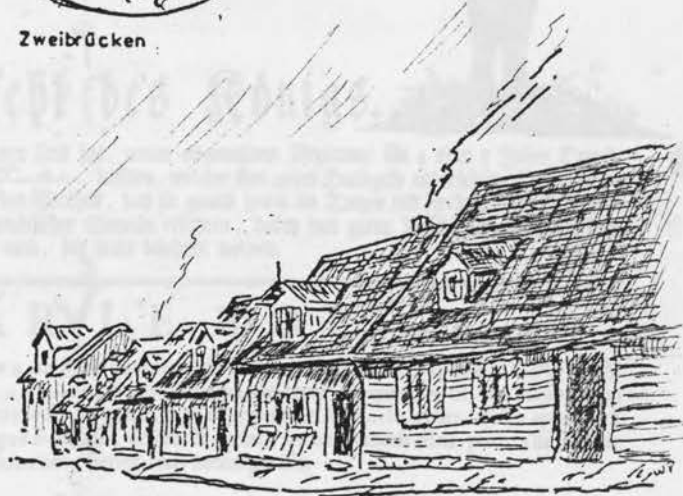
Translated:

Tabb, County of York, Virginia

the 19th of November 1976



Zweibrücken



HOUSES OF THE GRENADIERS
Pirmasens

Deutsches
Königlich-Französisches Infanterie-Regiment
von Zweybrücken,
oder
ROYAL-DEUX-PONTS.



Aus Befehl des Königs.

Kund und zu wissen seye hiemit jedermänniglich, das wer Lust hat, unter obgemeltem Regiment für 4 oder 8 Jahre Dienste zu nehmen, der kann sich bey Herrn *de La Tour* in *Frankfurt* melden, welcher ihm gutes Handgeld und richtige Capitulation ertheilen wird. Es genießen solche bey diesem Regiment den Vortheil, das sie gratis sowol im Tanzen und Fechten, als Schreiben unterrichtet werden. Junge Leute in deutsch- und französische Sprache erfahren, dabey von guter Aufführung, werden bald avanciret werden. Wer einen schönen Mann zuweisen wird, soll wohl belohnet werden.

DE PAR LE ROI.

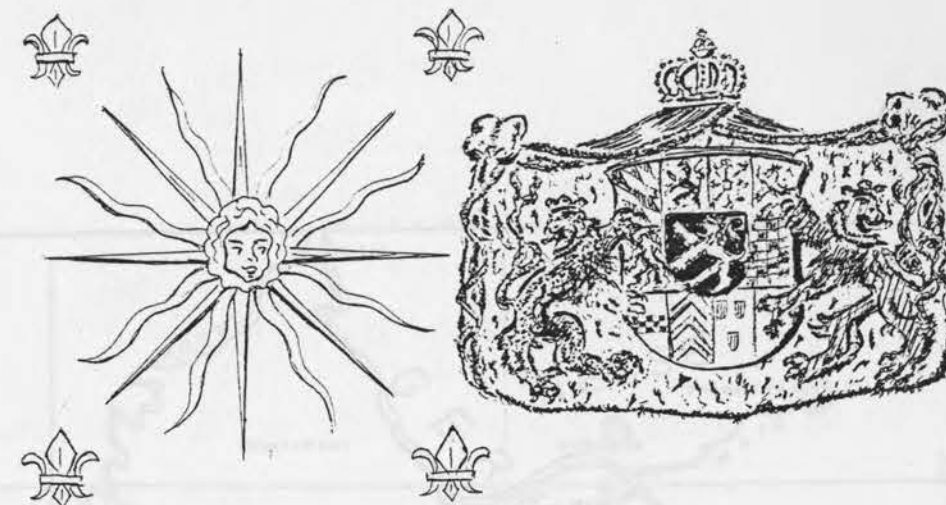
La brillante jeunesse, qui voudra prendre parti pour 4 ou 8 ans dans le susdit Regiment de ROYAL-DEUX-PONTS, pourra s'adresser à Mr. *de La Tour* Capitaine de *compagnie* qui leur donnera de bons engagements & une capitulation exacte. Ils jouiront aussi de cet avantage, qu'ils seront instruits gratis, tant en apprenant à faire des armes, qu'en apprenant à danser & à écrire. Les jeunes gens sachant la langue françoise, & lire & écrire, seront avancés dans peu, s'ils sont de bonne conduite. Ceux qui ameneront de beaux hommes, seront bien récompensés.

Deutsches
Königlich-Französisches Infanterie-Regiment
von Zweibrücken,
oder
ROYAL-DEUX-PONTS.



BE IT KNOWN TO ALL & SUNDRY that whosoever has the desire to enlist for a period of 4 to 8 years of service in the here advertized Regiment, should report to Mr. _____ who will pay him a handsome enlistment bonus & will provide for proper induction. Such persons enjoy the advantage in this regiment to be given free instructions in dancing & fencing, as well as in writing. Young persons versed in the German & French languages & of good character & conduct, will rapidly advance in rank. He who sends a handsome young man to the regiment, shall be amply rewarded.

Recruiting Poster for the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts
printed in Strasburg 1775



THE CONVENTION
OF 1776

concerning

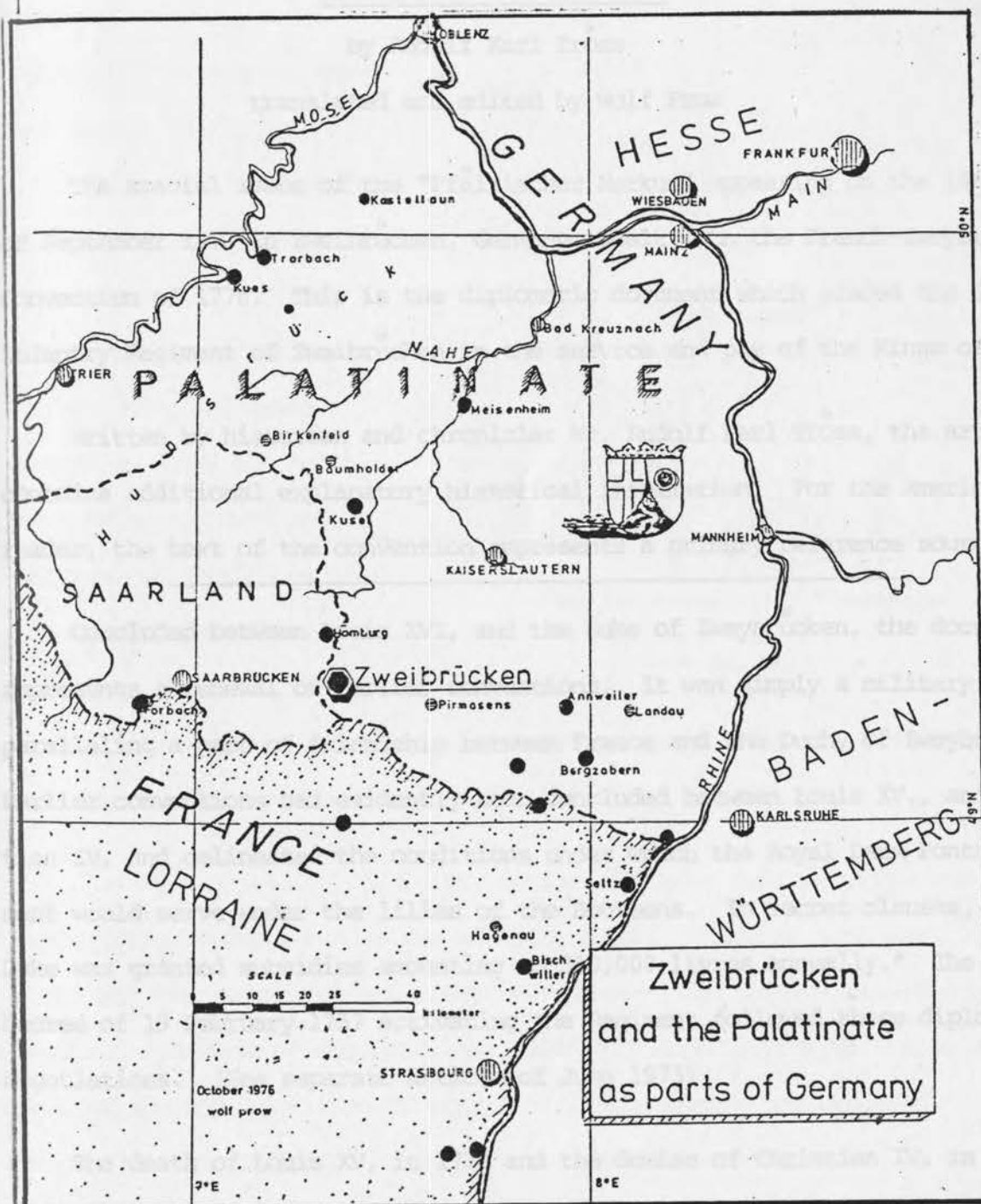
The Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment

by Rudolf Karl Tröss

September 1973

translated by Wolf Prow

III



THE CONVENTION
OF 31st OF MARCH 1776
CONCERNING THE
REGIMENT ROYAL DEUX-PONTS

by Rudolf Karl Tröss

translated and edited by Wolf Prow

The special issue of the "Pfälzischer Markur" appearing on the 14th of September 1973 in Zweibrücken, Germany, dealt with the French-Zweybrücken Convention of 1776. This is the diplomatic document which places the German Infantry Regiment of Zweibrücken in the service and pay of the Kings of France.

Written by historian and chronicler Mr. Rudolf Karl Tröss, the article contains additional explanatory historical information. For the American reader, the text of the convention represents a primary reference source.

Concluded between Louis XVI, and the Duke of Zweybrücken, the document represents a renewal of earlier conventions. It was simply a military treaty, paralleling a pact of friendship between France and the Duchy of Zweybrücken. Earlier conventions had evidently been concluded between Louis XV., and Christian IV, and delineated the conditions under which the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment would serve under the lilies of the Bourbons. In secret clauses, the Duke was granted subsidies amounting to 300,000 livres annually.* The royal decree of 19 February 1757 activating the Regiment followed these diplomatic negotiations. (See separate article of June 1973)

The death of Louis XV, in 1774 and the demise of Christian IV, in the following year, called for re-negotiations of previous commitments. The treaty

of friendship, (Traite d'union et de bonne correspondance) was renewed in February 1776 between the new rulers, the ill-fated Louis XVI, King of France, and the belatedly despotic Karl August II., Duke of Zweybrücken. It was during the reign of these sovereigns that the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was deployed to America as French unit, assisting the young and struggling

United States in her fight for independence. In the Battle of Yorktown fought in 1781, the Zweybrücken regiment distinguished itself.



The Convention of 1776 is yet another document demonstrating the status of Zweybrückers as soldiers in the national sense. Together with Bavarians and other South and West German troops, they had already been part of the "Reichsarmee" which fought the Prussia of Frederick the Great. The alliance with France was not unusual as Germany consisted of scores of independent principalities. The Duke of Zweybrücken saw in France the major power of Europe and friendship with French Kings as a means to achieve power, influence, and wealth. Indeed, the French crown already entertained plans to install a Zweybrücken Duke as King of Bavaria. However, the French Revolution had to sweep Europe and the Wars of Liberation had to topple

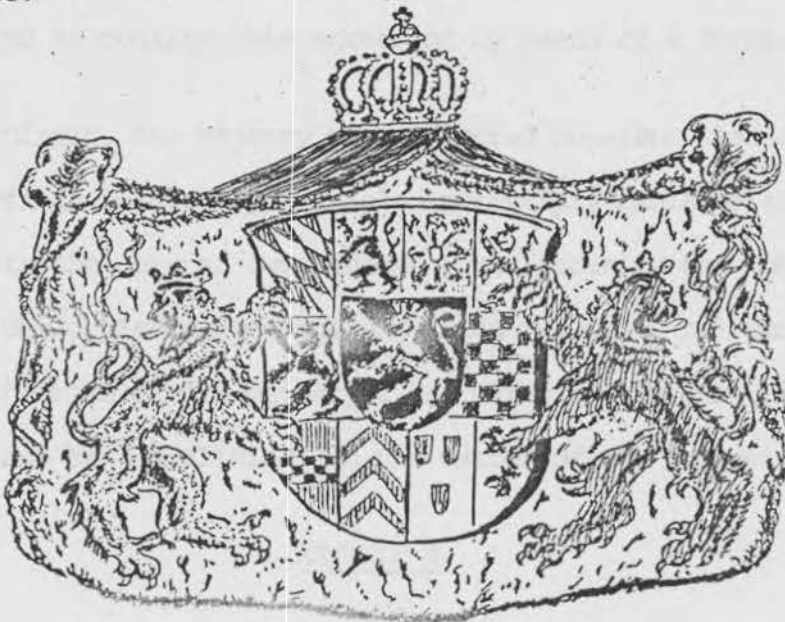
Napoleon, before the Palatinate and Bavaria did merge to form a new Kingdom in 1816 with Duke Max Josef as Zweibrücken's last duke and Bavaria's first King, Maximilian I.



Mr. Tröss observed in the article that world history was reflected in the treaties of the 18th century and that the French Revolution swept away the dazzle of Europe's nobility. In France, Louis XVI., was guillotined and Zweibrücken's fat and despotic duke became a hunted fugitive. The legacy of the documents lingers on to illuminate an age so crucial to the birth of a new nation in the new world - the United States of America. It provides a glimpse behind the stage of world events.

The military treaty, the Convention of 1776, is given from the German translation. The original title was: "Convention entre le Roi et le Sérénissime Duc de Deux-Ponts" originally prepared by the French Foreign Office, a copy is available through the Historical Service of the French army in the Castle of Vincennes, near Paris, France.

x x x



*The Coat of Arms of the Dukes
of Zweibrücken*

Convention

Between the King & his serenity the Duke of Zweybrücken concerning the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts.

Whereas his serenity, the Duke of Zweybrücken, has duly advised his majesty of the desire to enter the same contractual ties that exist between his majesty & the Prince of Bavaria to the effect to maintain a national corps of German troops in the pay & service of France in perpetuity & whereupon he suggested to hold proprietorship of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts after it had been activated as auxiliary Corps & was transformed into a Regiment under the name "Deux-Ponts" & whereby the regiment has preserved nothing but the name, the flags, & the uniforms in its make-up & original purpose & in that the King has duly noted these stipulations & desired to bestow upon his serenity the Duke signs of friendship & benevolence which have been enjoyed by the princes of his house at all times, through the grace of his majesty & his predecessors, it has been decided to confirm this agreement by means of a formal convention.

Accordingly, his majesty has empowered Monsieur Claude Pierre Maximilien Radix de Sainte Foy, his plenipotentiary minister at the Court of his serenity the Duke of Zweybrücken & his serenity the Duke George Guillaume des Bees, his trusted advisor, with authority to reach agreement for & in the name of his majesty & his serenity the Duke of Zweybrücken upon exchange of formalities, in the matter of the following articles:

ARTICLE 1

Whereas the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts was raised by his serenity the

Duke of Zweybrücken as auxiliary unit & was placed under the auspices of the crown by this prince, the King & the ruling Duke have agreed that henceforth it will be considered as a national Zweybrücken unit & continue to be in the service & constant pay of France subject to the orders of the King & his successors.

ARTICLE 2

The Duke of Zweybrücken will be the perpetual proprietor of this regiment. Nevertheless, the regiment will bear the title "Royal" which was duly bestowed at the time of activation.

ARTICLE 3

His serenity, the Duke, is given the exclusive right to recommend the Vice Commander, whom he may always select from among the most outstanding persons in accordance with the provisions of the convention.

He will enjoy the pay & allowances due his rank even in the event that he is assigned to the person of his serenity.

ARTICLE 4

The appointment of the commanding Colonel as well as the ranking major will be at the King's discretion & in keeping with the appropriate customs of other German regiments in the service of France.

ARTICLE 5

All other vacated positions will be filled through recommendations of his serenity, the Duke of Zweybrücken. Three quarters of these positions are preferentially given to German noblemen who possess the prerequisite

qualities. The other quarter is reserved for subjects of the King who were born in Alsace or German Lorraine. [See special article at the end]

It is agreed upon that replacement by German subjects takes place in sequence & in proportion to the positions available within the ratio restrictions established herein.

A German subject will always be replaced by a subject of the same nationality & a French subject by another Frenchman.

ARTICLE 6

Composition, discipline & maintenance of the corps are to be kept in accordance with regulations published in such matters as well as such instructions as may be issued subsequently for other German regiments in the service of France & such orders as the King may deem proper in military matters & transfers.

ARTICLE 7

"The Duke of Zweybrücken who desires to demonstrate his dedication to the Regiment and having the intention to provide continuously the means required for its operational readiness, provides for a recruiting depot in such a place of his lands that is considered the most appropriate. This depot will be commanded by officers who are to be selected and assigned without regard to unit.

His serenity permits to assign junior officers from the township and villages of his lands as designated by special instructions.

ARTICLE 8

Recruiting and subaltern officers may enlist any strangers who report, provided, they are not deserters from units of his serenity, or any other prince or state with whom his serenity has concluded a mutual agreement about extradition of deserters.

ARTICLE 9

Since the maintenance of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts calls for one-hundred and fifty recruits annually, his serenity permits annual enlistments of one-hundred twelve recruits, be they his own subjects or foreigners residing in his lands.

This figure cannot be exceeded without the express permission of his serenity & must be sought at his court by the Vice Commander.

ARTICLE 10

The King consents to a fourth of soldiers in the regiment (depending on how it will be constituted) being recruited in his provinces where the German language is customarily spoken. These soldiers shall be equally distributed among the companies with due regard to the origin and nationality of Captain Commanders.

ARTICLE 11

When the service of his majesty requires an increase of unit strength, he will communicate with his serenity, the Duke, to determine a suitable manner of how this can be achieved, either by incorporation of one or more battalions of the troops of his serenity, or by other means.

ARTICLE 12

III 8

In view of this convention, the Regiment of Deux-Ponts is considered a national Zweybrücken Corps, & his serenity reserves the right to request release from the King in such instances when he should need the regiment to implement rights of succession & to defend his present and future domains. **

His majesty will send the regiment six weeks after receipt of the formal request under the condition that it shall never be committed against the King, nor against the allies of his majesty & that it be understood that a special agreement will be concluded between his majesty and his serenity in advance to settle matters of pay, allowances & all considerations of readiness & honour from the moment this Corps crosses the boundaries of the Kingdom up to & including its return.

ARTICLE 13

The aforementioned convention is to be ratified by the King & his serenity, the Duke & documents of ratification will be exchanged in the space of six weeks, or earlier when possible.

In full confidence of the foregoing we have set our hands and seals hereunder & have granted the appropriate powers of the sovereign to the negotiating participants.

Given at Zweybrücken on this day, the thirty first of March one thousand seven hundred and seventy six.

Signed/ de Sainte Foy

& George Guillaume de Bées

L.S.

L.S.

To serve in explanation of several paragraphs in the Convention concerning

The Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts.

When his serenity is called to ascend the throne of such states for which he appears to be destined by Providence ** and as a result of which he is compelled to maintain the units of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts which at that time may be serving with the Palatinate troops, the regiment will be ranked immediately behind the Regiment of guards and will precede all others.

On no occasion will there be a strict interpretation of the stipulation that provides for assignment of three-fourth of the officers' position in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts to Palatinate nobility alone & foreigners or Palatinate persons from good families who possess the prerequisite qualities and who are recommended by his serenity will be permitted to serve. No difficulties will arise from acceptance of foreigners who could be among the recruits permitted to enlist among the subjects of his serenity.

Palatinate officers who will serve in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts, will not be limited solely to the positions of commanding colonel, the Vice Commander & the ranking major, but may be appointed to the staffs of the entire body of German infantry.

This special article shall have the same force as though given verbatim in the text of the convention signed today. The article will be ratified in the same manner and ratification documents will be exchanged simultaneously with those of the convention.

In witness whereof we have set our
hands and seals hereunder.

Given at Zweibrücken on the 31st of March 1776.

/ Signatures

Postscript: The copy of the Convention in the regimental archives at the Castle of Vincennes bears the notation:

"31 Mars 1776 à Deux-Ponts, Il n'y a pas eu de Convention depuis 1776" [After 1776 no other conventions were concluded]

Mr. Tröss gratefully acknowledged the assistance of Dr. Karl Brill in translating the original French document and Mr. Rudolf Reichling of Zweibrücken for generous support to conduct research.

The article appeared in a special issue of the "Pfälzischer Merkur" on the 14th of September 1973 under the Title: "Das Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts - Die Konvention vom 31. März 1776"

Translated: Gloucester Point, Virginia
31 March 1976
Wolf Prow

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REMARKS AND TRANSLATOR'S NOTES:

* The sums of money of the 18th century are difficult to express in current values. The purchasing power of livres, ducats, gulden, crowns, and reals minted of precious metals far exceeded the value of the debased currencies of today. For example, the French silver "ecu" bearing the portrait of either Louis XV or Louis XVI was found in large numbers in the American colonies. During the Revolution, this French coinage still served as legal tender. The conversion of 5 livres per \$1 is a convenient guide.

** Repeated references to the Zweibrücken branch of the House of Wittelsbach ascending the Bavarian throne occur not only in this document, but throughout historical records of the period. French rulers were forever meddling in European politics and planned to install the loyal and allied Duc de Deux-Ponts as King of Bavaria. It was after the collapse of the Napoleonic Empire - in 1816 - that the last duke of Zweibrücken, Max Josef, did ascend the throne of Bavaria. -

Deutsches
 Königlich-Französisches Infanterie-Regiment
 von Zweibrücken,
 oder
 ROYAL-DEUX-PONTS.



BE IT KNOWN TO EVERY AND ALL MEN that whosoever desires to enlist in the Regiment advertised herein for a period of 4 to 8 years of service, should report to Mr. _____, who will pay him a handsome enlistment bonus & will provide for proper induction. Such persons enjoy the advantage in this Regiment to be given free instructions in dancing & fencing, as well as in writing. Young persons versed in the German & French languages & of good character & conduct will rapidly advance in rank. He who sends a handsome man to the Regiment shall be amply rewarded.

Recruiting Poster for the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts

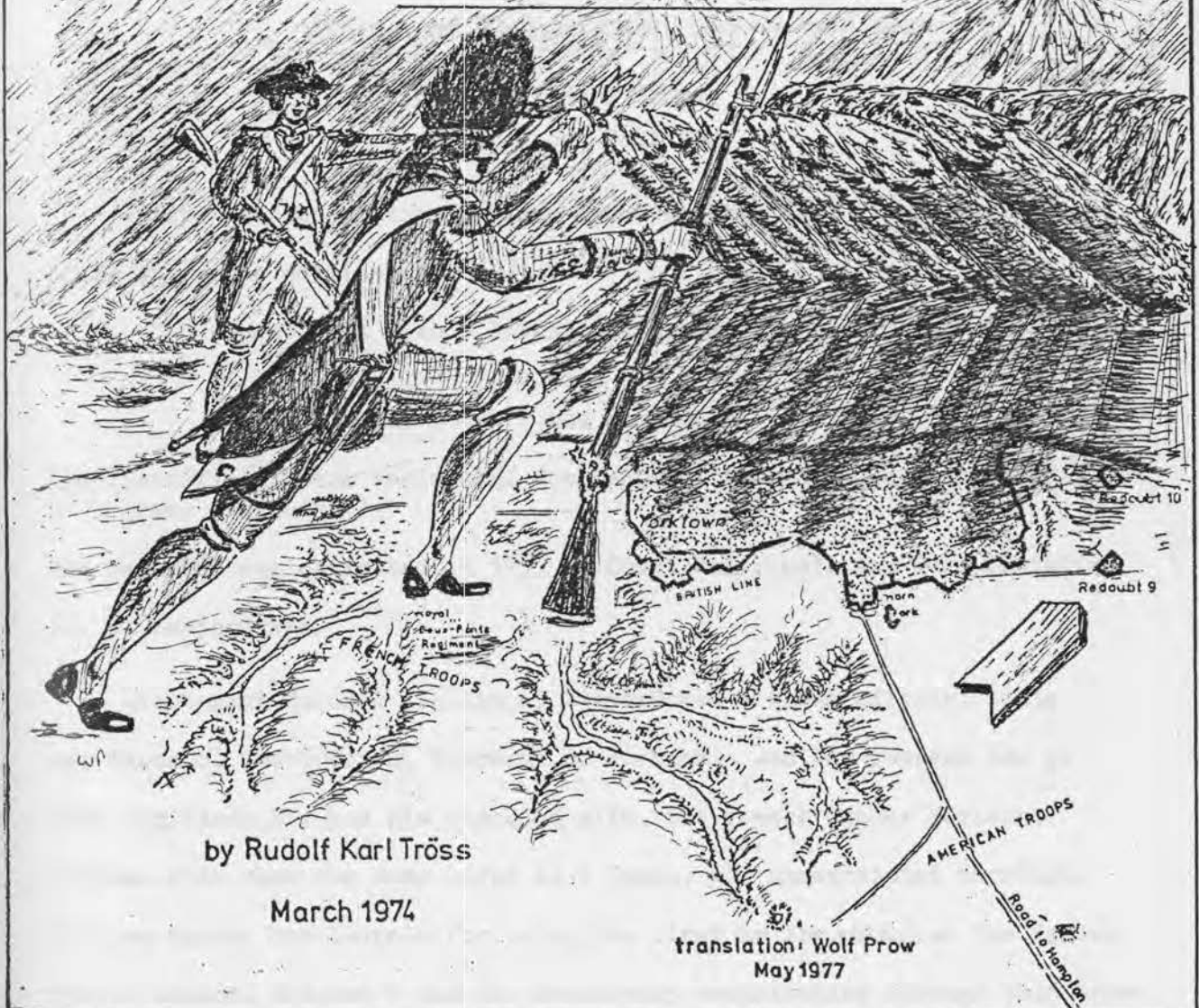
printed in Strasburg 1775

Translation: wolf prow

IV

THE DAY AT YORKTOWN

William of Zweybrücken Hero of the Day



by Rudolf Karl Tröss

March 1974

translation: Wolf Prow
May 1977

ROYAL DEUX-PONTS REGIMENT

William of Zweybrücken "Hero of the Day at Yorktown"

by Rudolf Karl Tröss
translated by Wolf Prow

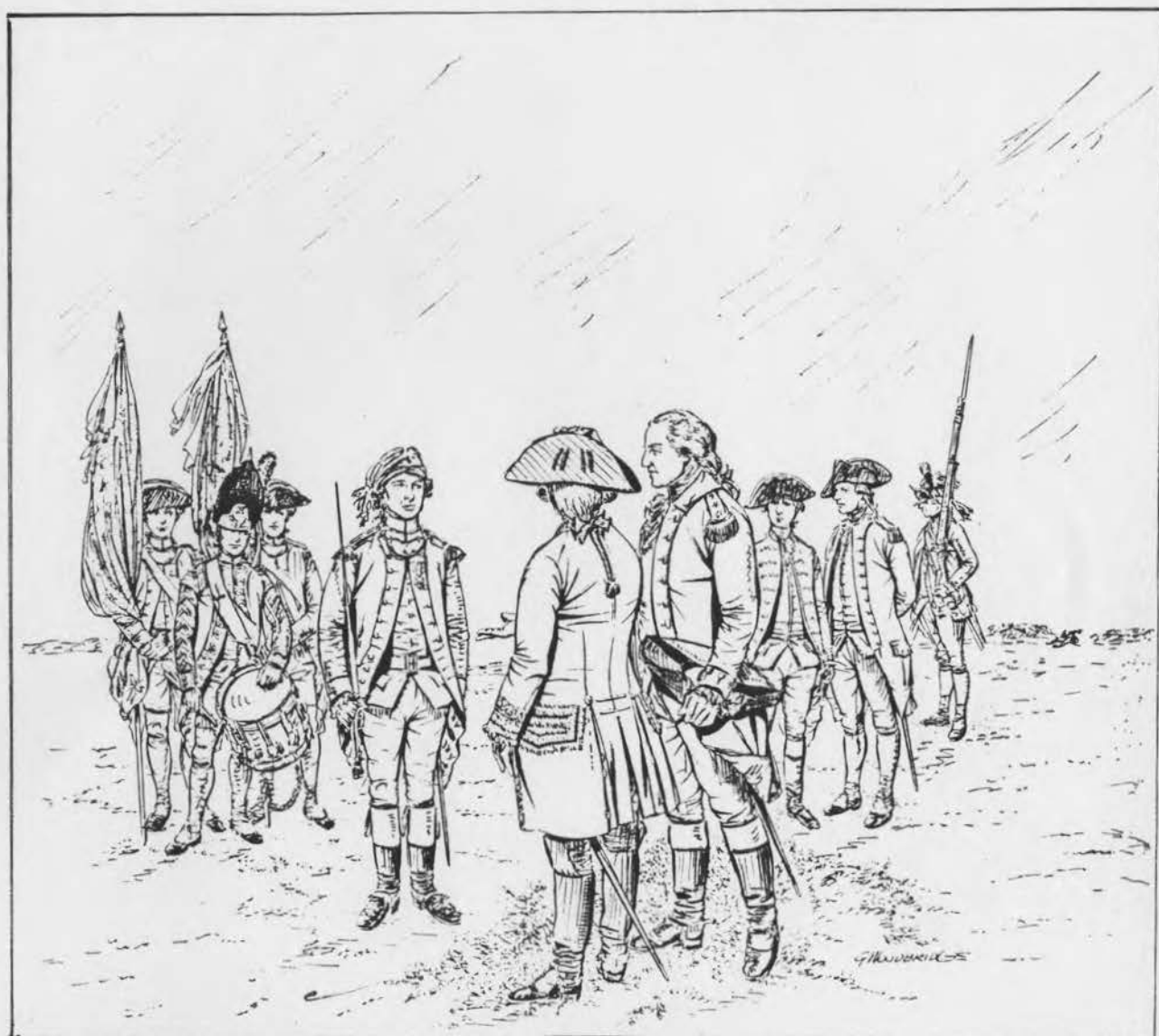
In the records of the American Revolutionary War, a very significant contribution is ascribed to the

"German Royal French Infantry Regiment of Zweybrücken
or
Royal Deux- Ponts Regiment"

(so identified in the regimental documents of the "Service historique de l'Armée française")

The regiment was activated in 1757 by Count Palatinate and Duke Christian IV. of Zweybrücken.

Lieutenant Colonel William of Zweybrücken - whose official title was Baron of Zweybrücken, Viscount of Forbach - was the younger son of Duke Christian IV. and his espoused wife, the French dancer Marianne Camasse with whom the duke lived in a legal, but unsanctioned marriage. William earned his laurels for being the first in the attack on the famous, abatis-studded Redoubt 9 and for decisively contributing through this brave action to the ensuing capitulation of Yorktown on the 19th of October 1781. On the [smaller of the] accompanying battle map[s], Redoubt 9 is shown by letter A. (See page IV 5) This was the very cornerstone of the second Allied



Generals Washington and Rochambeau congratulate Wilhelm of Zweybrücken for Leading the successful attack on Redoubt 9 at Yorktown.



Wilhelm, Freiherr von Zweibrücken und Graf von Forbach

Guillaume des Deux-Ponts, Vicomte de Forbach

Count William of Deux-Ponts

1754 - 1807

siege line encircling the British. The heroic action of William of Zweibrücken has been duly acknowledged and highly praised in historical accounts. French Navy archives contain records referring to him as "the hero of the Day at Yorktown". (Vicomte de Noailles, Marins et Soldats Français en Amérique, p. 259)

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

A brief historical sketch of the American Revolutionary War begins with origins in growing political ferment of the English colonies in America, culminating in conflict with the mother country. England still persisted in pursuing mercantile aims in overseas domains and sought to achieve greater economic exploitation of colonies through more stringent implementation of commercial decrees. Open rebellion erupted in 1773 with the Boston Tea Party. The Congress in Philadelphia broke trade relations with England (1774).

George Washington raised troops inferior in arms and equipment, but familiar with the country, experienced in conducting guerilla warfare with Indians, and commanded by him not in a strategically noteworthy manner, but flexibly, tenaciously, and imbued with ultimate purpose. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, formerly an officer with the rank of major in the Army of Frederick the Great, became the drill-master and shaped the American Army [at Valley Forge in 1778].

England's forces, swelled by 30,000 German mercenaries, were numerically superior. In the Battle of Lexington (1775) the opponents met in the first larger scale clash of arms.

On the 4th of July 1776, the thirteen New England states [sic] declared their independence. Europe watched the contest in America with fascination. Volunteers, among them the Marquis La Fayette [and later von Steuben], rushed to the aid of the rebels. While the Americans successfully fought the Battle of Saratoga (1777), Benjamin Franklin concluded a treaty with France, Spain, and Holland

in 1778 which not only recognized the young United States of America as an independent nation, but also brought support for the struggle in the form of funds and arms.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND ZWEIBRÜCKEN

Benjamin Franklin who served as American ambassador to France from 1776 to 1785, is particularly close to the City of Zweibrücken in that he was among the first subscribers to the "Editiones Bipontinae" - a special edition of a series of classical works. In a listing of subscribers for Plato's works, he is listed 10th from the top. (Communication from Herzog-Wolfgang Gymnasium) Still another connection is worth mentioning: The mother of the sons of Duke Christian IV. and widow of the duke, the French dancer Marianne Camasse, is believed to have become acquainted with the great Franklin in December 1776 when he came to Paris to conclude the treaty with France. Franklin's last will and testament contains the instructions:

"My beautiful cane made of crab-apple wood, with an originally worked golden knob and in the shape of a Statue of Liberty, I bequeath to a friend of mine and of all mankind - George Washington. If it were a sceptre, it would also be appropriate for him and he would be deservant of it. I received the cane from a magnificent lady, Madame Forbach, the duchess-widow of Zweibrücken, together with some verses that are to be passed on with my estate".

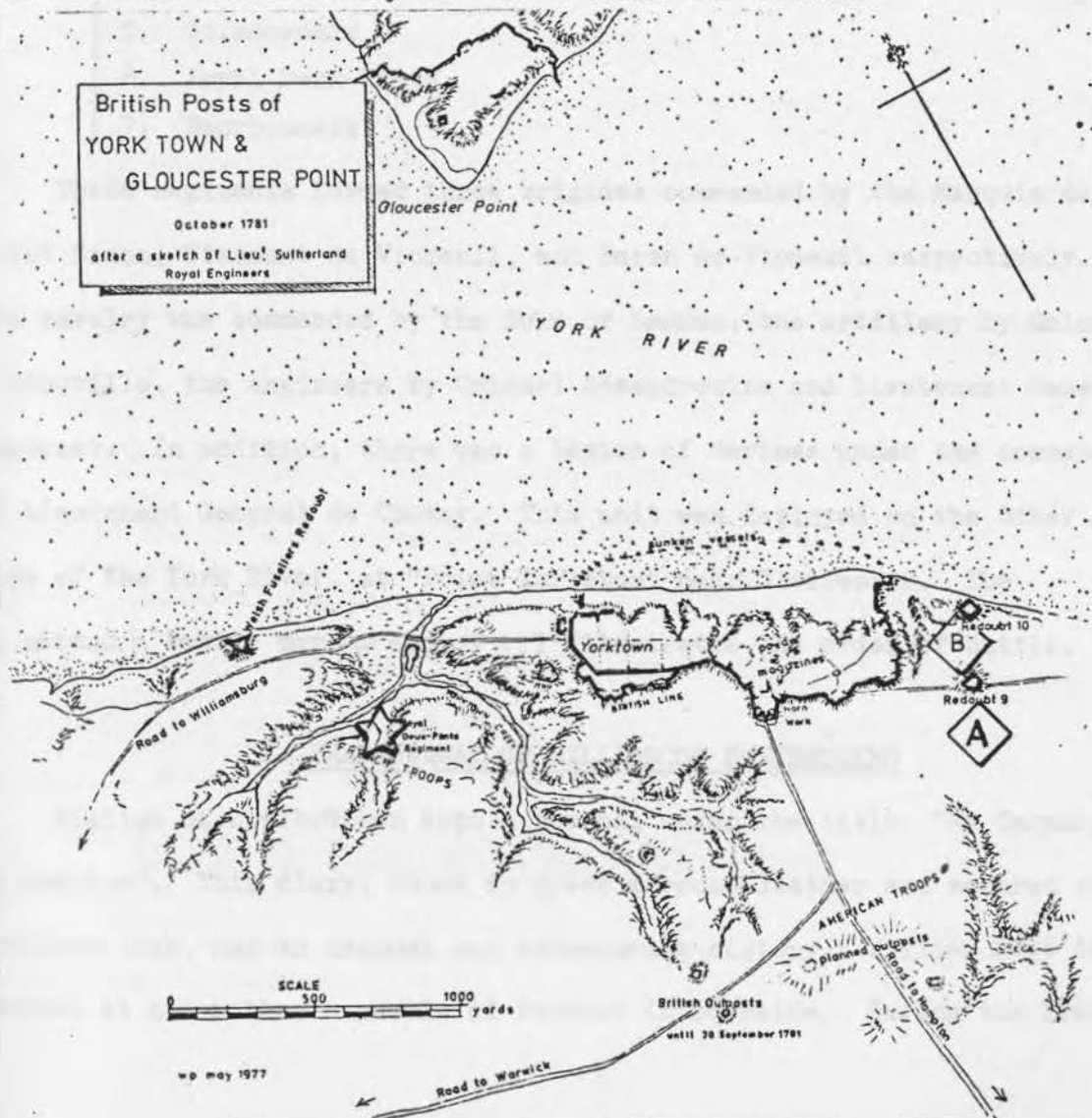
(Lossing, Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, p. 201, [here re-translated into English])

SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN

In the spring of 1781, the seventh year of the American Revolutionary War, Lord Cornwallis as the supreme commander of the British Army, [sic] left North Carolina for Virginia to hold this province for the English crown.

The Marquis de La Fayette, dispatched to Virginia with a numerically inferior force, was not in the position to oppose the enemy in open battle and had to restrict himself to impede and delay the movements of the English as much as possible.

In the middle of summer, Cornwallis was ordered to establish a fortified base for the British fleet in the lower Chesapeake Bay area. It was to be a safe port, capable of accommodating English ships-of-the-line. Great emphasis was placed on strict compliance with the order. The choice fell on the small, busy seaport of Yorktown. Here the American Revolutionary War was to reach its climax!



During the Siege of Yorktown, La Fayette as well as von Steuben were active participants. The French expeditionary corps of about 7,800 officers and men, was composed of seven regiments of infantry and commanded by Count de Rochambeau. In the Battle of Yorktown, these regiments were aligned as follows:

(from North to South)

1. Gatinais
2. Touraine
3. Agénais
4. Saint Onge
5. Soissonnais
6. Royal Deux-Ponts
7. Bourbonnais

These regiments formed three brigades commanded by the Marquis de Saint Simon, Viscount de Viomenil, and Baron de Viomenil respectively. The cavalry was commanded by the Duke of Lauzun, the artillery by Colonel d'Abboville, the engineers by Colonel Desandrouins and Lieutenant General [sic] Querenet. In addition, there was a Legion of Marines under the command of Lieutenant General de Choisy. This unit was deployed on the other side of the York River, at "Point Tarleton" near Gloucester. The [second] battle map [on page IV 17] illustrates the order of battle.

THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM OF ZWEYBRÜCKEN

William of Zweibrücken kept a journal under the title "My Campaigns in America". This diary, bound in green morocco leather and secured with a silver lock, has an unusual and adventurous history. William kept this journal at his mother's castle of Forbach in Lorraine. During the French

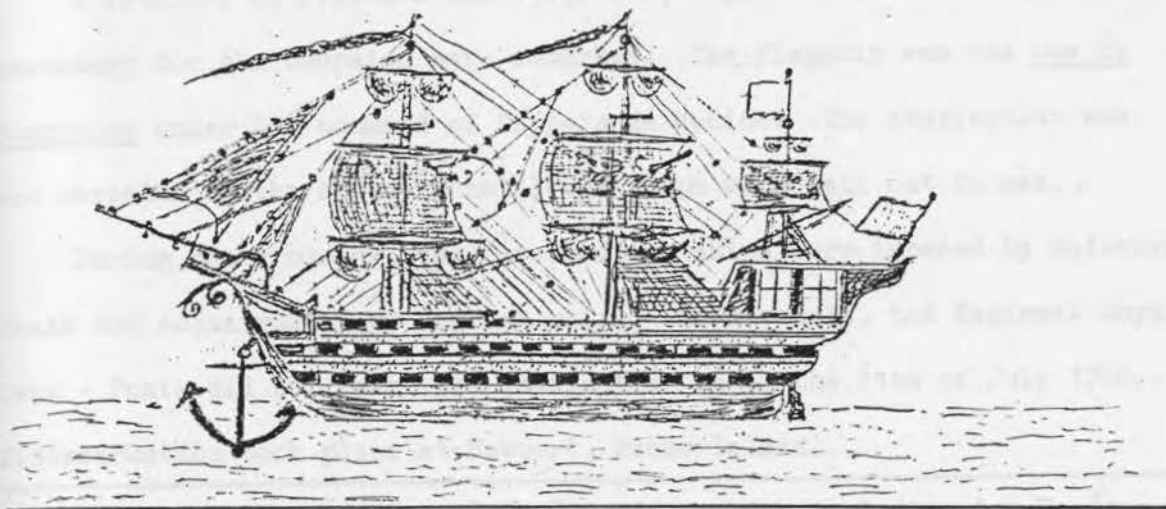
Revolution this account disappeared and was lost for a long time. In the year 1867 it was found by an American in a used book shop in Paris and was found to be genuine. The American by the name of Samuel Abbot Green translated the journal from French into English. This translation was printed in Boston and published under the title: My Campaigns in America, A Journal kept by Count William de Deux-Ponts, 1780 to 1781, translated from the French manuscript, with an introduction and notes by Samuel Abbot Green, Boston, 1868. The printed text comprises 154 pages. Three letters relating to the military experiences of the author are attached as appendices. The Capuccine monk John Lenhart, born in Reifenberg (Palatinate) and cloistered in the St. Augustine Monastery in Pittsburgh, copied the journal and translated it into German.

THE VOYAGE TO AMERICA

The embarkation of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts took place on the 4th of April 1780 in the naval port of Brest immediately after the arrival of the regiment. Prior to that the brothers William and Christian had formally taken leave of the queen. This gave the diplomat Pachelbel reason to speculate that both enjoyed special favors of Marie-Antoniette. During the preceding winter the two battalions were garrisoned at Saint Pol de Leon and Landerneau in Brittany.

The crossing to America took place aboard the following sailing vessels:

1. The Grenadier Company Fürstenwärtner on the "Eveille", a man-o-war of 64 guns



a French 18th century ship as seen by G. Flohr of the Zweybrücken Regiment

As a fuselier in the Company of Sundahl, Georg Flohr kept a journal that gave an account of the campaign in America from an enlisted man's view. Flohr illustrated his journal with sketches and watercolors of which the above depiction is an example. The original is in Strasburg and copies were enhanced for black and white reproduction. The above drawing could represent a warship similar to the Eveille.

2. The Ranger Companies von Klock, Flad, and half a company of von Sundahl sailed on the Comtesse de Noailles, a transporter of 300 tons berthen.

3. The companies von Wisch, Thuilliere and von Stack embarked on the Venus, a sailing vessel of 350 tons displacement.

4. The companies von Hainault, Gabannes, and a half company of von Sundahl, sailed on the Loire, a 300-ton ship.

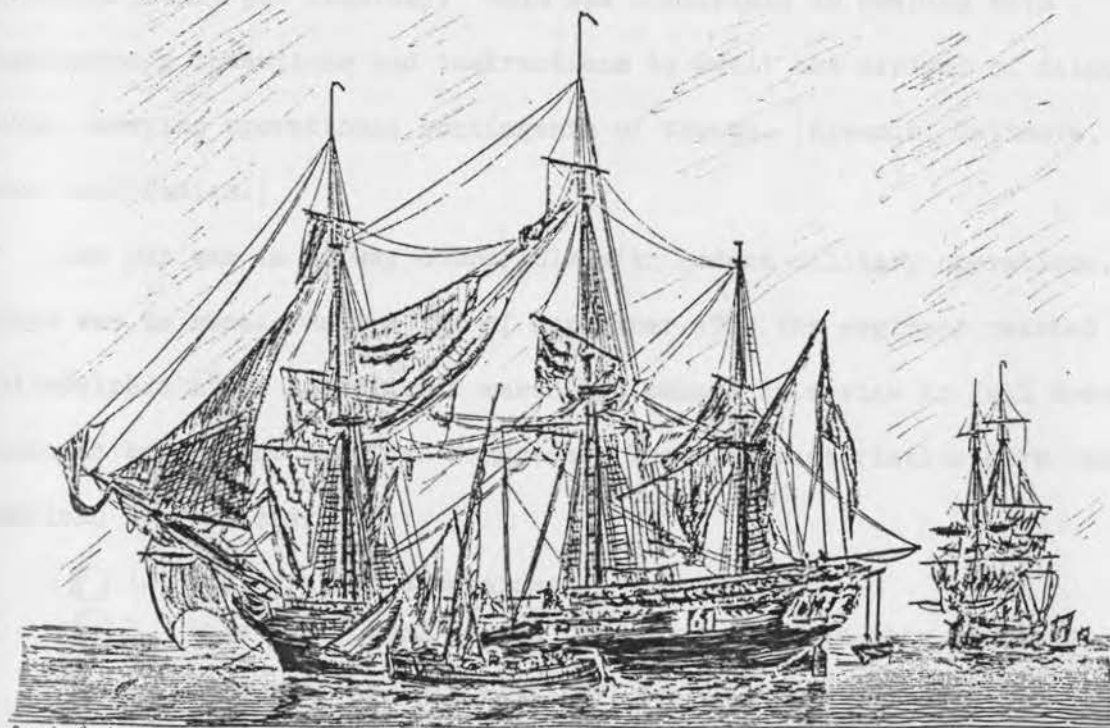
5. The company Rühle von Lilienstern embarked on the Ecureil, a tiny vessel of only 180 tons.

By today's standards, these ships were mere nutshells. [The illustration on the following page depicts an English transporter comparable to the Loire. The size of the vessel can be judged by the persons aboard and the gun barrel hoisted aloft.]

A total of 63 officers and 1,150 men, together with their equipment necessary for the campaign were embarked. The flagship was the Duc de Bourgogne under the command of Captain de Medine. The destination was not revealed to the officers until the ships were well out to sea.

During the crossing, the five sailing ships were impeded by unfavorable winds and occasionally by English ships. As a result, the Regiment Royal Deux - Ponts did not reach its destination until the 11th of July 1780. Disembarkation took place at Newport, Rhode Island.

A French publication of 1804, Collection de Toutes les Espèces de Batimens de Guerre et de Batimens Marchands, illustrated with beautiful engravings by Baugean, contains representations of vessels mentioned. The English troop transport "61" is typical of the craft of the period. (Since the clarity of the original could not be retained, this reduction was enhanced to show the major features.)



Dessiné et gravé par Baugean.

Batimens de transports anglais, embarquant des effets militaires.

On the 24th of July (1780), General La Fayette conducted an inspection. During the crossing the regiment had lost nine men and 450 were sick with scurvy. It appears that the strongest and tallest men had suffered the most. "The Germans are not very good sailors", was the verdict of a contemporary. [Small wonder after an Atlantic crossing of 13 weeks and being in extremely confined space.]

The organization of the American forces dragged on till the middle of June 1781. On the 5th of July, the supreme commander, General Washington, paid a visit to the regiment.

FIRST CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY

The first contacts with the English who took the initiative, occurred on the 28th of July 1781. However, it was not until late August before the campaign really got underway. This was completely in keeping with Washington's intentions and instructions to await the arrival of delayed ships carrying operational contingents of troops. [Agenois, Gatinais, Touraine from West Indies.]

The war was in no way comparable with modern military operations. There was no rush. On the 3rd of September 1781 the regiment reached Philadelphia after a difficult march and passed in review in full dress uniforms before the American Congress. Three characteristics mark the American Revolutionary War:

1. Vast spatial dimensions
2. Relatively small-sized armies operated in this enormous space
3. Manner of warfare with battles not aimed at annihilation and without maximum commitment of men and materials.

French expeditionary forces generally did not become involved in any major engagements. The characterization by La Fayette is well known that in those days the most earth-shaking decisions were made in the course of small encounters. [The French government did commit a total of about 16,000 men for military operations on the North American continent.]

William of Zweybrücken led two battalions [sic] of chausseurs (rangers or light infantry) and grenadiers who had already been under his command at Annapolis when the crossing of the York River [sic] had taken three days.

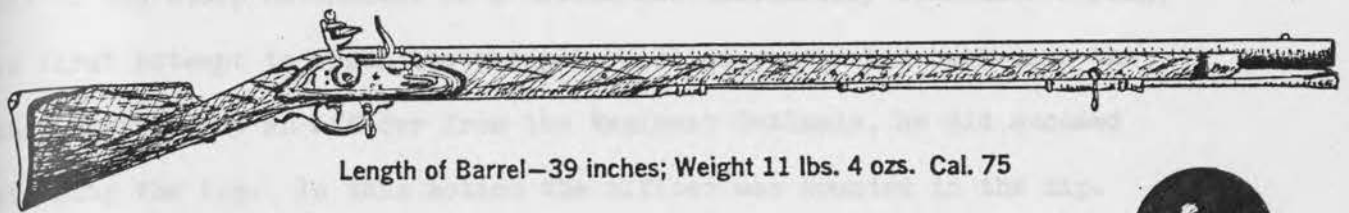
It was toward the end of September when positions were finally taken up at Yorktown. The siege of Yorktown actually began on the 6th of October 1781. Three days later the first gun was fired by Washington personally. The bombardment of the town commencing with this act was ceaseless and intensified from day to day. Cornwallis was handicapped by a shortage of ammunition and could not retaliate in kind.

THE INVESTMENT OF YORKTOWN

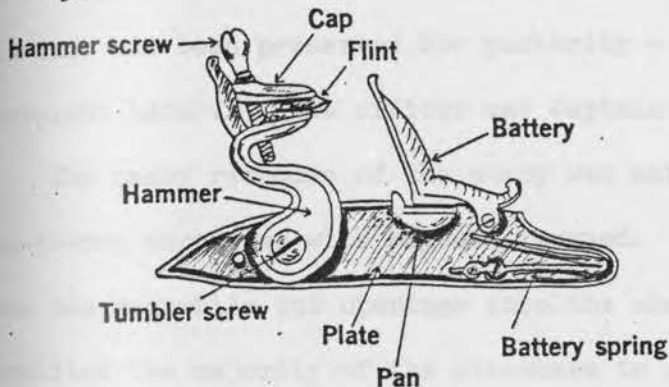
To provide an open field of fire, Cornwallis had ordered the removal of all buildings, trees, and other obstacles in front of his main line on a strip about a thousand meters wide. All approaches were blocked. The completion of permanent fortifications was pursued in feverish work. And it was in this setting here at Yorktown that William's true qualities were to be displayed to the fullest. William was initially assigned to General Rochambeau who commanded the expeditionary corps. In this position he obtained such detailed intelli-

gence about the disposition of the enemy, that he was placed under the command of General Baron of Viomenil and selected to lead the attack upon the left Redoubt. At the same time, La Fayette was preparing to take the right one.

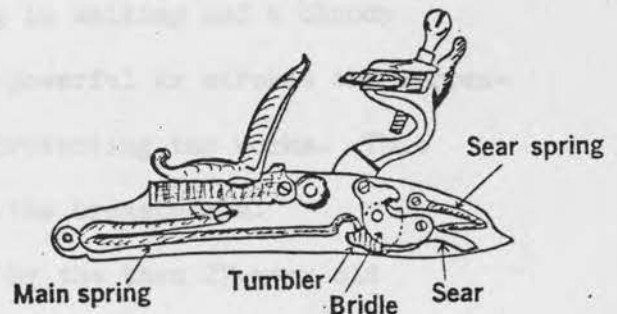
English "Brown Bess" Musket



Length of Barrel—39 inches; Weight 11 lbs. 4 ozs. Cal. 75



One ounce, .71 Cal. Ball—actual size



The English "Brown Bess" was not a particularly accurate firearm, but it was reliable. The range was about 80 yards. This weapon was used at Yorktown.

THE ATTACK ON REDOUBT 9

The unit intended for the assault under the command of William of Zweybrücken, was made up of grenadiers and chasseurs of the regiments Royal Deux-Ponts and Gatinais. Before nightfall, William had to take his troops to the spot designated for the launching of the attack. This had to be accomplished in complete silence. A connecting trench running close to the fortifications of the enemy was used.

During the attack, 50 carriers of fascines and ladders formed the vanguard. This group was also joined by eight carpenters. Owing to the darkness, it was possible to take the first line and advance without incident to within 130 paces of the besieged enemy.

At this position the opportune moment for the main thrust of the assault was to be awaited. However, several of the attackers had already stormed to the steep embankment of a trench and immediately commenced firing. In his first attempt to reach the parapet, William was hurled back into the trench. Assisted by an officer from the Regiment Gatinais, he did succeed in attaining the top. In this action the officer was wounded in the hip. His name has been preserved for posterity - his wound cost him his life a fortnight later. [The officer was Captain Jean Jarlan de Sireuil.]

The ready response of the enemy was not long in waiting and a bloody man-to-man encounter with bayonets ensued. With powerful ax strokes the carpenters had meanwhile cut openings into the abatis protecting the works. This permitted the majority of the attackers to scale the breastworks.

The spirit imbuing this attack was recorded by the then 27-year old William in his journal. He himself had issued the order to fix bayonets for the charge. The enthusiasm of the soldiers who pressed forward into the fight shouting "Vive le Roi" while under enemy fire supported by artillery, made a tremendous impression on William.

For the moment he continued to expose himself to the rain of bullets to check on prisoners and wounded. In addition to that, the reduced Redoubt had to be readied for defense in expectation of a counter-attack from the main defenses in Yorktown proper. During the attack William was wounded in the face and about the eyes by the ricochet of rocks from

shell bursts, but he was in no immediate mortal danger. However, he was in great pain and had to let himself be bandaged. Baron von Closen reported about the incident: There was apprehension about William's loss of eyesight and hearing.

In the meantime, General Baron of Viomenil had re-joined William at the Redoubt to direct the continuation of the operation so auspiciously begun. Losses sustained on this day (14th of October 1781) by the troops of Lieutenant Colonel William of Zweybrücken amounted to 92 dead or wounded of a total of 400 effectives.

The conquered Redoubt was defended by 160 men, all of them soldiers of German origin (Hessians), commanded by an English officer. The German Regiment of Ansbach, commanded by Colonel von Reitzenstein, was committed to the defense of the main works at Yorktown.

[Redoubt 10 was defended by only 80 men. Since Allied artillery had destroyed a section of abatis, the American attackers could launch their charge earlier to carry the fortress. American losses were nine killed and 31 wounded. Of the French casualties, 15 were killed in this action.]

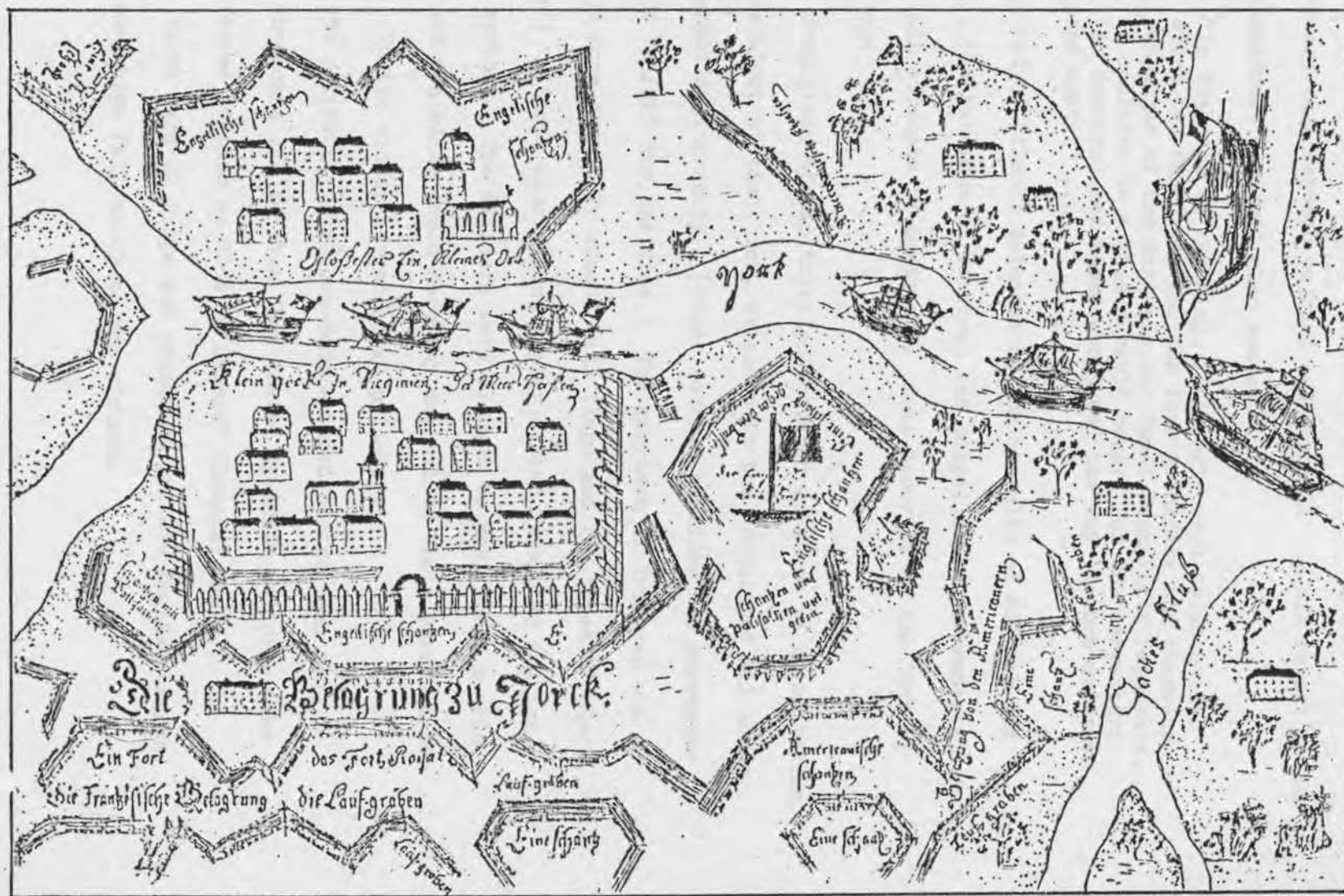


Fusilier Georg Flohr of the Company von Sundahl made the sketch of the siege appearing on the following page. More elaborate than any other of his sketches, this depiction was evidently prepared from memory and notes for the 1787 revision of Flohr's diary. Artistic license makes this rendition inaccurate, but provides us with a "map" entirely with German wording. The extensive system of "Laufgräben" - communication trenches - illustrates the approaches from the French side to the American sector. - This reproduction was enhanced and modified to permit legible printing. Compare with the English map on page IV 5 and French map on page IV 17.

THE AFTERMATH

In his report to Rochambeau, General Viomenil found words of highest praise for the bravery of William of Zweybrücken and of Lafayette. In this communication he recommended William for promotion to "Brigadier", which

The Siege of York, Georg Flohr's most fanciful depiction, 1787 [modified to show 2 pages on one sheet]



is a military rank between colonel and general. In his report to the French commander, Viomenil also wrote:

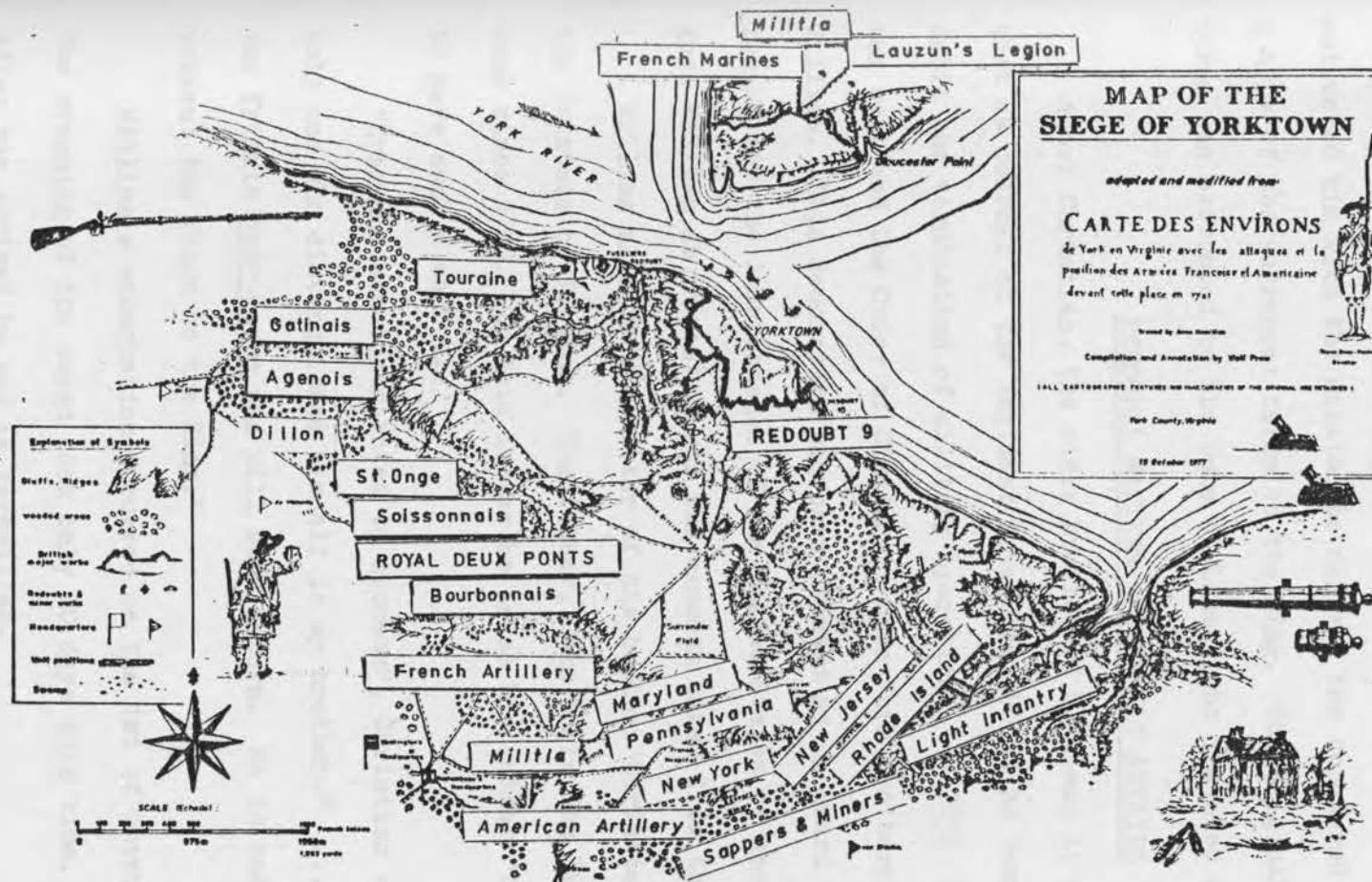
"In the name of the King, I strongly urge to authorize extra two days' pay for the four grenadier and chasseur companies of the Gatinais and Royal Deux-Ponts regiments, in addition to a considerable reward for the carpenters (ax bearers) and those who paved the way through defenses and abatis" ...

Deprived of (flank) defenses by the assaults of William and Lafayette, the garrison of Yorktown was compelled to surrender after several vain attempts to break out. This occurred on the 19th of October 1781.

The conditions of capitulation, couched in terms of humanitarian spirit prevalent at that time, extended to the vanquished all honor with remarkable generosity. [Other sources consider the surrender conditions "harsh" for the time.] The garrison of Yorktown was allowed to move out fully armed, with flags and the tunes of music. It was left to their discretion to play either German or English military marches. The officers were allowed to keep their swords. Officers and men alike could keep any and all of their personal belongings. To the victor surrendered as prisoners:

156 officers, 8,418 non-commissioned officer and men.

The Americans called them "Red Coats" by their uniforms, the French referred to them as "Dos de Homard" (Lobster Backs). In addition, there were 22 flags and standards and 214 English cannon. Further, the ships fell booty to the victors.



Allied Order of Battle, Yorktown, 1781

On account of the courageous leadership displayed by William of Zweybrücken and the magnificent results of this action, Rochambeau entrusted him with the mission to deliver the conquered flags and a copy of the surrender terms to the King. The original of the surrender terms was entrusted to the Duke of Lauzun who traveled on another ship.

PERSONAL MATTERS AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

About Christian, the older brother of William, it can be said that as colonel of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts he remained in America until the termination of military operations. (1783). General Washington bestowed the Order of Cincinnati upon both brothers Christian and William. This decoration had been created as an award for officers who fought for the Independence of the United States of America. He also gave William as present one of the cannons taken from the enemy.

William also took a letter of his brother Christian to their mother, the Countess of Forbach. The father, Duke Christian IV. was already dead since 1775. In this letter he asked his mother "to thank Heaven to have such a son" ...

"Everyone has contributed to success", Christian wrote, "but the only one who distinguished himself is my brother." ... "He is aboard the frigate Andromache and will soon return. He is under orders to present the flags to the King."

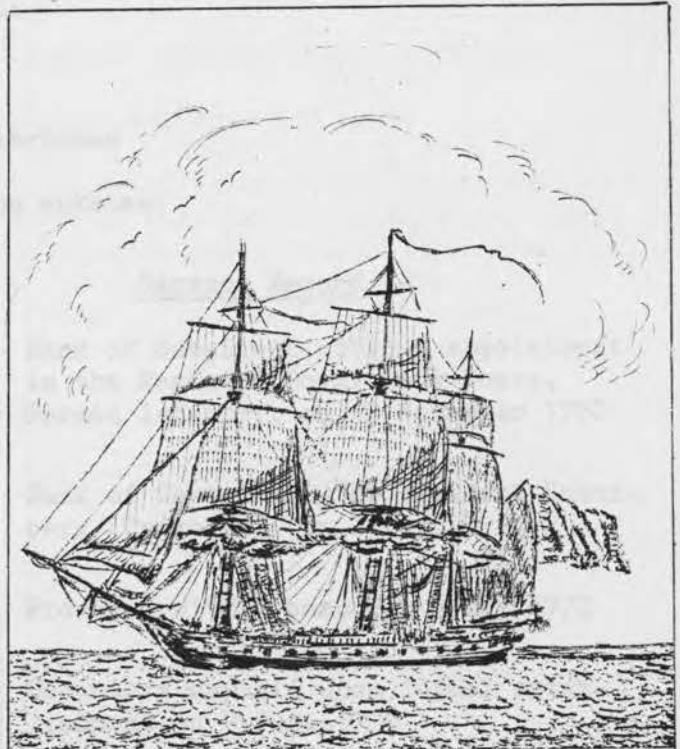
William's embarkation occurred on the 1st of November 1781. The crossing of the ocean took only 20 days this time. Four days after his arrival he was in Versailles.

It is easy to imagine what a dazzling reception was in store for him at court. As special recognition the King awarded the "Hero of Yorktown" with the Order of Saint Louis although William had not yet served the prerequisite number of years to be eligible for this high decoration.

The French Minister of War, de Segur, put William first in line for the command of a regiment of dragoons as soon as a vacancy would occur.

[Which did in January 1782.]
The favors enjoyed by William and his mother at the French court were immeasurable.

Indeed, William was colonel of the last cavalry regiment garrisoned in Sarreguemines (Saarland) under the "Ancien Regime" that preceded the French Revolution. On the 25th of June 1791, or immediately after the abortive flight of the royal family from Varennes, he tendered his resignation from the regiment. Without doubt, he too was compromised by the attempted escape. It can be assumed with certainty this his friend and regimental brother-in-arms, the Swedish count Axel von Fersen, had taken him into his confidence about the details of the plan.



Frégate au plus près, Saluant à la voix.

A French frigate similar to the Andromache. After an engraving by Baugean, 1804.

(Enhanced for better reproduction)

In the military records of the (former) Ministère de la Guerre,

William's service record is preserved:

Guillaume des Deux-Ponts
Vicomte de Forbach
born on 18 June 1754 at Zweibrücken

The record contains the following entries:

Detail des Services

Rang de sous-lieutenant sans appointement au régiment Royal Deux-Ponts, infanterie allemande le 12 novembre 1770

Rang de capitaine au régiment de Schonberg (dragons), le 25 avril 1772

Pourvu, d'une compagnie, le 5 mai 1772

Capitaine en second à la formation 7 juin 1776

Colonel-Lieutenant en second du régiment Royal Deux-Ponts, le 2 octobre 1777

Mestre de camp commandant d'un régiment de Dragons de son nom ex-Jarnac, devenu Chasseurs de Flandre, puis 3^e régiment de Chasseurs, le 27 janvier 1782

A donné sa démission, le 25 juin 1791

Campaigns

1780, 1781, 1782 et 1783, Amérique septentrionale, S'est distingué en Amérique

Blessures

Blessé au siège de York-Town 1781

Decorations

Chevalier de Saint-Louis, le 5 décembre 1781 pour sa conduite au siège de York-Town.

Service Record

Rank of Subaltern without appointment in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts, German Infantry, on 12 November 1770

Rank of Captain in the Regiment Schonberg (Dragoons), on 25 April 1772

Provided with a company, 5 May 1772

Secondary captain upon formal establishment on 7 June 1776

Lieutenant Colonel in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts on 2 October 1777

Appointed post commander for a regiment of dragoons with the reputation of being a crack unit, formed from the Chasseurs of Flanders, then the 3rd Regiment of Rangers, on 27 January 1782

Given his discharge on the 12th of June 1791

Campaigns

1780, 1781, 1782 and 1783 North America, he has distinguished himself in America

Combat Wounds

Wounded during the Siege of Yorktown 1781

Decorations

Order of Saint Louis on 5 December 1781 for his conduct during the siege of Yorktown.

Upon leaving the French service, Wilhelm Philip, Count of Forbach, Baron of Zweibrücken, married to Adelaide Countess of Palastron since the 10th of June 1780 [sic] went to Munich where he died in 1807 as Lieutenant General. His marriage had produced four children.

[Christian Baron of Zweibrücken and Count of Forbach, the older brother survived him until 1817. William's date of marriage as given above cannot be correct since he was at sea and on his way to America at that time. 1782 is a more likely date. See also the following article "The Officers' Roster of those who participated in the Campaign in America".]

CONCLUSIONS

The Victory of Yorktown was so decisive that the independence of the United States was assured. It was the hour of birth of a world power. Nevertheless, it took until 1783 before the English King George III was willing to concede by peace treaty to recognize the independence of the United States.

Yorktown, the little seaport near Chesapeake Bay has today only about 350 inhabitants, just as in the year 1781. It is combined in an administrative unit with the City of Williamsburg. [sic] The population of the two towns together numbers about 28,000. [sic]

The battlefield has been reconstructed and is carefully maintained in its original state. Yorktown has become a site of national pilgrimages in the United States.

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19. John Selby, The Road to Yorktown, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1976
20. Adrienne Melvin Combs, The Siege of Yorktown, 1781, Colonial National Historical Park, September 1976
21. Charles E. Hatch, Jr., Yorktown and the Siege of 1781, National Park Service Historical Handbook Series No. 14, Washington, D.C. 1954 (revised 1957)
22. Christopher Duffy, The Army of Frederick the Great, Hippocrene Books, Inc., New York, 1974

xxx

Printed in: Pfälzischer Merkur, 1 March 1974 under the title: "Wilhelm von Zweibrücken - Held des Tages von Yorktown"

Translated by Wolf Prow
Tabb, York County, Virginia
31 May 1977

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

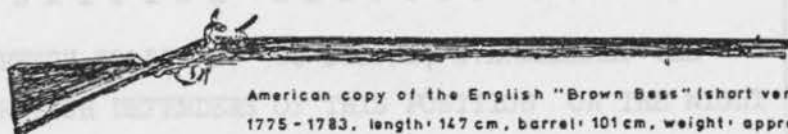
The translation of Mr. Tröss' article was embellished with new maps and illustrations to put the text in clearer focus. Comments are given in brackets [] for further clarification or to emphasize errors. Although this is the key article of the series, other sections contain further information and corroborate the role of the Zweibrücken regiment at Yorktown. American sources make scant mention of the fact that the regiment was composed of Germans. Other writings consider the regiment to be French, or to be made up of mercenaries. The City of Zweibrücken offered to erect a marker at Redoubt 9 with the following inscription:

"Here, on the 14th of October 1781, men of the Zweibrücken Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts and soldiers of the Regiment Gatinais, under the command of Baron Wilhelm von Zweybrücken, carried this important redoubt by storm. Their commitment to battle led to the decisive victory of Yorktown and firmly established American Independence."

Inexplicably, the Park Service denied this request on the grounds that this is a regimental matter which does not have transcendental importance.

ooo

SOME FIREARMS OF 1781



American copy of the English "Brown Bess" (short version)
1775 - 1783, length: 147 cm, barrel: 101 cm, weight: approx. 4.5 kg
Effective Range: 75 m



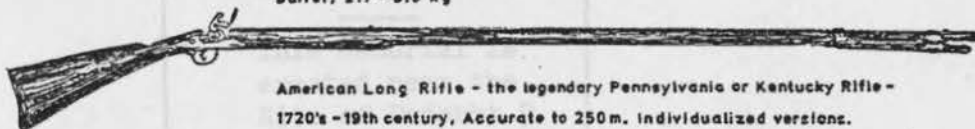
French Musket, referred to as "Charleville", 1763 model series,
152 cm long, 114 cm barrel, 3.6 - 4.2 kg. After 1777 over 100 000
were supplied to American troops. Effective Range: 77 m



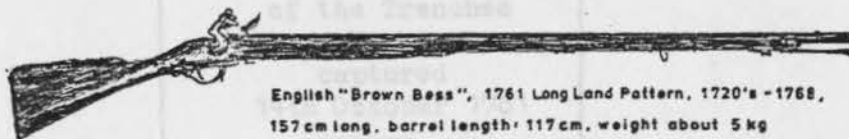
Dutch or German Musket, (many varieties) 1750 - 1770
141 cm long, 103 - 111 cm barrel, 3.5 - 4.7 kg



German Hunting or Jäger Rifle, 1730 - 1750. Forerunner of famous
"Kentucky Rifle", grooved for range of 130 m, 110 cm long, 58 cm
barrel, 2.7 - 3.5 kg



American Long Rifle - the legendary Pennsylvania or Kentucky Rifle -
1720's - 19th century, Accurate to 250 m. Individualized versions.
180 cm long, 125 cm barrel, 3.7 - 5.1 kg



English "Brown Bess", 1761 Long Land Pattern, 1720's - 1768,
157 cm long, barrel length: 117 cm, weight about 5 kg
Effective Range: 80 m



French Cavalry Pistol, Model 1766
47 cm long, 23 cm barrel, ~ 1.5 kg

YORKTOWN BATTLEFIELD PARK, VIRGINIA

SIGN AT REDOUBT 9

B R I T I S H R E D O U B T N O . 9

FRENCH SOLDIERS, 400 STRONG, OVERWHELMED THE
120 BRITISH DEFENDERS OF THIS POSITION ON THE NIGHT
OF OCTOBER 14, 1781. THIS AND THE FALL OF REDOUBT
10 SPELLED THE END OF CORNWALLIS' HOLD ON YORKTOWN.

Bronze Plaque near the Entrance to Redoubt 9 :

In Commemoration
of the
French Soldiers
and Sailors
Who gave Their Lives
for
American Freedom

This Memorial is
erected near the
Site of Redoubt 9
Second Parallel
of the Trenches
of Yorktown
captured
14th October 1781

American Legion
Department
of Virginia

A show-case box next to the Bronze Plaque contains a sketch of the redoubt and descriptive text. With some effort the phrase: ... commanded by Col. William Deux Ponts ... can be read. However, the glass cover is always clouded by condensation and precludes deciphering the greater part of the text.

V

regimental music

of the



Royal Deux-Ponts

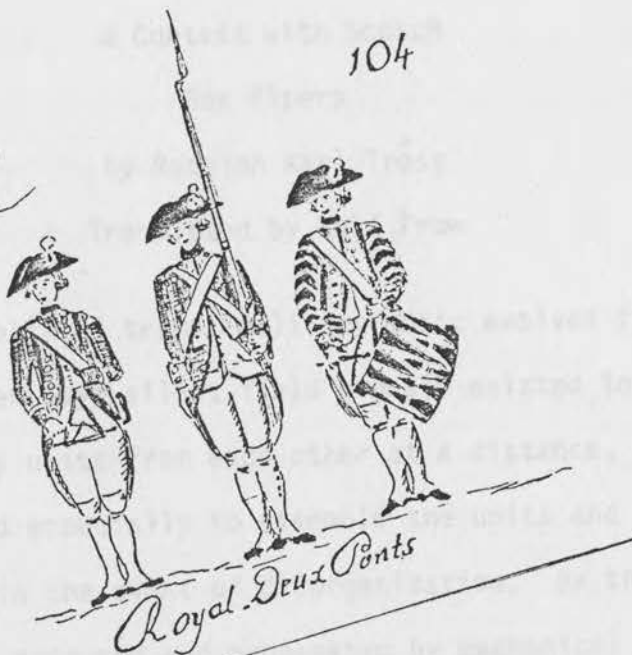
REGIMENT



by R.K.Tröss

16 December 1975

1776. Lilla
1777. Metz



March of the Regiment « ROYAL DEUX-PONTS »

drum

transition

MARSH

FINE

FINE

drum

da Capo

part 1

V

Regimental Music

of Zweibrücken

at Yorktown

a Contest with Scotch

Bag Pipers

by Rudolph Karl Tröss

Translated by Wolf Prow

Stated in simplified terms, military music evolved from signalling practices. In olden days silent field signals existed to distinguish individual military units from each other at a distance, to facilitate troop movements and especially to assemble the units and to regroup them in military order in the event of disorganization. By the same token, acoustical signals produced and propagated by mechanical means, were used very early, particularly in obstructed terrain and during the night and in fog.

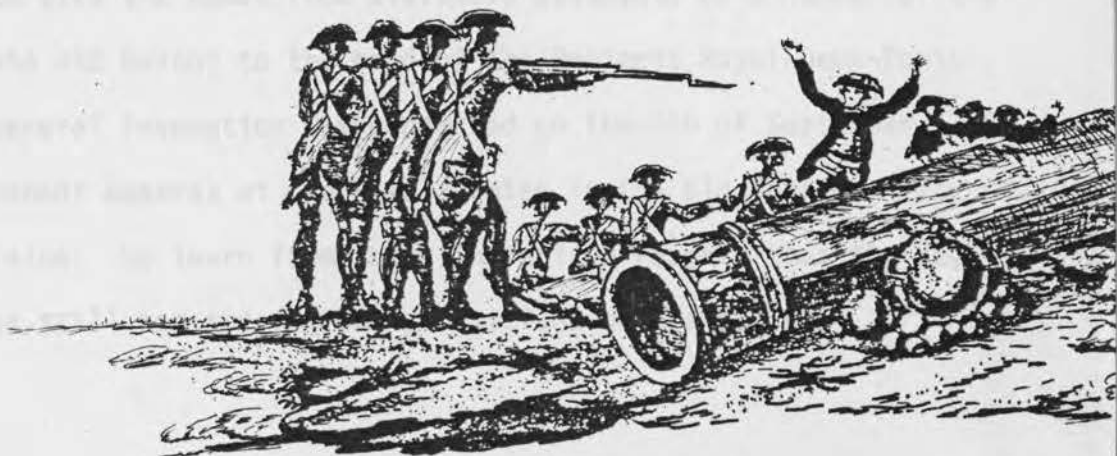
According to other versions, the tunes now called "military music" were developed from the music of court and town musicians, or "town pipers" - in other words from civilian practices. (Joachim Toeche-Mittler, Berlin).

During the middle ages, trumpeters and kettle drummers were the musicians of the imperial cavalry, while pipers and drummers played for the foot soldiers. Modern military music has its origins late in the 18th century.

For the Royal-Deux-Ponts Regiment established 1757 by Duke Christian IV, a military band with the modest strength of 15 men which included the drum major, can be documented for the day of surrender at Yorktown on the 19th of October 1781. The French miniature and battle painter Louis Nicolas Van

Blarenberghe (1716-1794) who was a descendent from a well known family of painters from Lille in Belgium and who enjoyed some contemporary fame⁽¹⁾; produced in 1785 a huge painting (2.14 x 84.2 inch x 60.23 inches) executed in tempera colors depicting in a most realistic manner the surrender march of the English Yorktown Garrison which was permitted to bear arms, carry cased colors and be accompanied by lively music. The Garrison had most generously been given the option to play either German or English marches. While the troops consisting primarily of German Hessians marched into captivity, the English military bands played the tune "The World Turned Upside Down".

The tempera painting of L. N. Van Blarenberghe housed in the museum of Versailles, exudes drama and excitement. The focal point of the painting is formed by the Regiment Royal-Deux-Ponts in full strength and fronting the viewer. By ancient martial custom the regiment was accorded the honor to be present during the laying down of arms as a unit having been in the battle lines at the time surrender negotiations commenced. The regiment with its sky blue and lemon yellow uniforms, together with band, ducal banners and military flags, forms one side of the lane made up of French and American troops past which the English infantry is marching. A magnificent distinction for the men of Zweibrücken! The regiment owes this honor solely to the German - American general, Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, the "drillmaster" of the American army.



Contest With Scotch Bag Pipers

On the day following the surrender, a thoughtprovoking incident occurred as described in an American account: "With the dawn of day strange sounds carried over from the British lines. The bag pipers of the 76th Scots Regiment greeted their conquerors. In order not be outdone, the band of the Royal-Deux-Ponts also began to play."

"Then the sun rose on an amazing scene. From one end of the British lines to the other, the breastworks were crowded with soldiers and officers and on the allied side it was the same. Both armies stared at each other as though they were seeing each other for the first time. And the silence of the battlefield broke." (Washington's Greatest Triumph, Thomas F. Flemming, Nelson's Patriotic Scrapbook, 1974, p. 55)

"Drummers and pipers stood behind the flags and in front of them were the musicians who played happy tunes." (From the letters of Axel von Fersen to his father).

The military band of the Regiment Royal-Deux-Ponts consisted in those days primarily of Pipers, flutists, clarinet players and drummers. We are in the fortunate position to give the names from available documents of a number of the military musicians who did belong to the band of the Regiment Royal-Deux-Ponts of that period. A general inspection was conducted on the 6th of September 1786 by Duc d'Ayen, Lieutenant General of the Royal armies in the old fortress city of Pfalzburg in Lorraine. We learn from these inspection reports that the Regiment Royal-Deux-Ponts still had the following musicians on the rolls:

Karl Jost discovered the following court musicians named Lachnith:⁽³⁾

"Lachnit, Anton, Musician, from Linz, son of Johann 1779-1782 (1770 in grade IV of a secondary school of Zweibrücken)

Lachnit, Johann, French horn player, from Linz, 1760-1787 (Died 1792) married to Elisabeth Holl. (Also Christoph) (Died 1772), composer

Lachnit, Wenzel, musician, 1768 (Book of Servants)

Lachnit, Johann, court musician from Linz, sends three sons to secondary education schools.

The oldest son, Anton, is believed to have been born 1756 in Linz, the two others, Josef and Adalbert were born 1767 and 1768 respectively, in Zweibrücken. (Matriculated in secondary education at Zweibrücken).

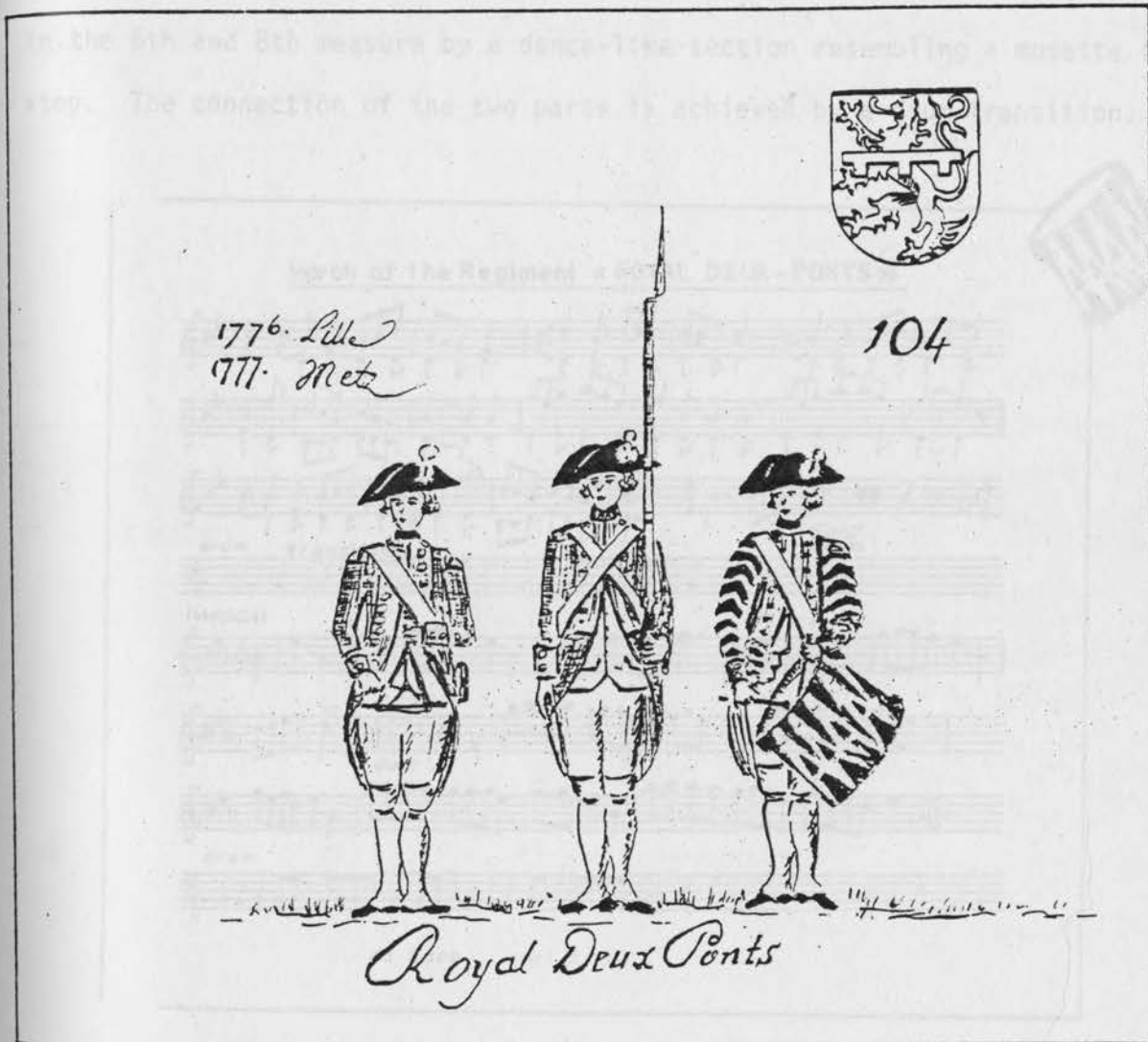
The Soldier's Register dated 14 May 1763 at Diedenhofen for the First Battalion of Royal-Deux-Ponts (RDP 1759 to 1776, Volume 1, YC1876) reveals:

Sebach, Jean Michel, company drummer and linseed miller from Zweibrücken, 21 years of age, enlisted in Compagnie de Pratty on 21 May 1761, transferred after five years on 23 April 1766 to Compagnie de l'illienberg. Janson, Pierre, company drummer, Catholic, from Zweibrücken, 21 years of age, enlisted 1759 in the Regiment.

Through the efforts of Karl Jost and Walter Bohrer, additional military musicians of the Regiment-Deux-Ponts could be identified from church records of the city of Zweibrücken⁽³⁾ (4). Baer, clarinet player, 1767; Dietz, Johann Jakob, company drummer, 1757, married to Juliana Elisabetha Gessewein; Johannes, company drummer, married to Barbara Goldmann, 1760; Andreas, clarinet player,

Friedrich Striedbeck's depiction of

Royal Deux - Ponts Uniforms [Strasbourg 1786]



triangle player

company drummer

fuselier

Fortunately, the old march of the Regiment-Deux-Ponts has also been preserved for us. Dr. Wilfried Gruhn was kind enough to put the melody of the march in notes from the sounds on a record. In his opinion, it is a simple military march in two stanzas in the style of the period, embellished in the 6th and 8th measure by a dance-like section resembling a musette type step. The connection of the two parts is achieved by a drum transition.

March of the Regiment « ROYAL DEUX-PONTS »



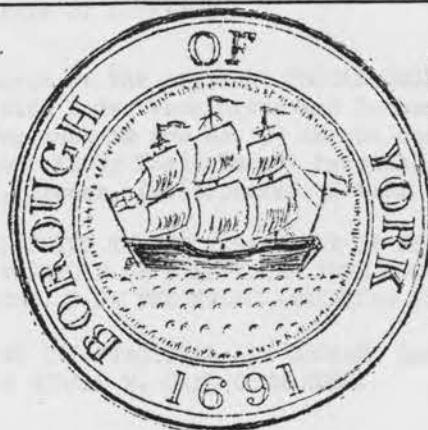
The musical score is written on ten staves. The first three staves contain the main melody in treble clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. The fourth staff is labeled 'drum transition' and contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The fifth staff is labeled 'FINE' and contains a final cadence. The sixth staff is labeled 'MARSCH' and contains a new melody in treble clef, with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The seventh staff is labeled 'FINE' and contains a final cadence. The eighth staff is labeled 'drum' and contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The ninth and tenth staves are empty.

da Capo part 1

printed in: Pfälzischer Merkur, No. 289 Tuesday, 16 December 1975 p. 19

- Sources: (1) R. K. Tröss; Surrender at Yorktown an illustrated presentation, Zweibrücken monthly Publication April 1970, p. 22
- (2) Karl Jost. List of Court and military musicians. Supplement to the essay "Mozart and Zweibrücken", "Zweibrücken of the Baroque period and its masters." 2nd revised edition, p. 818 published by Julius Dahl and Karl Lohmeyer. ZWEIBRÜCKEN, 1957
- (3) Karl Jost, List of Court and Military musicians (see footnote 4)
- (4) Walter Bohrer, Exerpts from the Protestant Church Records, of Zweibrücken 1744-1798. Vol. IV. No. 3674 and Protestant Church records of the community Ernstweiler 1714-1798. No. 1771
- (5) Dr. Wilfried Gruhn, supplement to Zweibrücken history of music, Die Musikforschung, #23, 1970, pp. 173-175
- (6) The illustration of "Accurate conception of all royal units of France, of J. F. Striedbeck in Strassbourg of 1786-1790, I owe to Dr. Paul Martin, Conservateur Honoraire of the Museums of the City of Strasbourg.

Translated:
5 May 1976
Tabb, Virginia



YORKTOWN



ZWEIBRÜCKEN

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Signing of the

Treaty of Alliance

between the American Colonies and France

Yorktown, Virginia

the 5th of February 1978

PROGRAM NOTES:

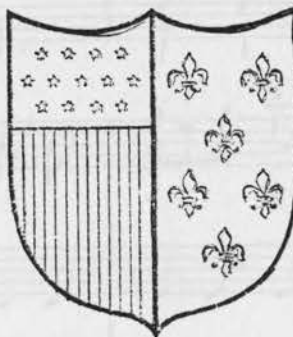
An original composition by MSgt. James R. Paschall has been written in honor of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Alliance between the American colonies and France. It is a fanfare based on the musical intervals 2-6-1-7-7-8, which represents the date of the signing of the treaty.

Other musical selections specially honoring America's oldest ally include the march of the famous Deux-Ponts Regiment which served under Rochambeau at the battle of Yorktown.

MARCH: Historical march of the Regiment "ROYAL DEUX-FONTS" (Zweybruecken) which saw action under Washington and Rochambeau at Yorktown in 1781. The Regiment is now No. 99 in the modern French Army. The arrangement is by TSgt. Robert Percich. The March tune is courtesy R.K. Troess, Zweibruecken, F.R.G.

THIS SELECTION IS PRESENTED TO THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING HIS VISIT TO YORKTOWN ON 5 FEBRUARY 1978 COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE FRANCO-AMERICAN TREATY OF ALLIANCE.

THE PRESENTATION IS BY THE "TACTICAL AIR COMMAND BAND", LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA, MAJOR RONALD W. CARL COMMANDER.



Royal Deux-Ponts March

V 11
arr R. Percich

CLL A. Sy
mf
T. Sa f
2nd Mel
Btr.
Tuba

+ TRPT, [A]
f
+ BR.

Handwritten musical score for a string quartet, featuring four systems of staves. The notation includes various musical symbols, dynamics, and performance instructions.

System 1: Features a *tutti* marking. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte).

System 2: Includes first and second endings marked *1.* and *2.*. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo). A *tutti* marking is present at the end of the system.

System 3: Contains multiple *fine* markings. A *GR.* (Grave) marking is present. A *GR.* (Grave) marking is also present.

System 4: Features a *FLUTE* marking and a *MARSCHE* (March) marking. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Handwritten musical score for the first system, measures 1-3. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a measure containing a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, followed by a measure with a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4, and ends with a measure containing a half note G4. The middle staff is empty. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats. It features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, measures 4-6. The system consists of three staves. The top staff continues the melodic line from the first system. The middle staff is empty. The bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment, with some measures showing a change in the right-hand part.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, measures 7-9. The system consists of three staves. The top staff begins with a measure marked with a wavy line and the text "+ REEDS" above it, followed by measures 8 and 9. A box labeled "B" is placed above the first measure of the system. The middle staff is labeled "L. BRASS" and contains a melodic line. The bottom staff is labeled "T. BA & T. DR." and contains a melodic line. The dynamic marking "mf" is written below the first measure of the top staff, and "mf CONT. DR." is written below the first measure of the bottom staff.

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system, measures 10-12. The system consists of three staves. The top staff continues the melodic line. The middle staff contains a melodic line with some rests. The bottom staff contains a melodic line with some rests. The dynamic marking "mf" is written below the first measure of the top staff.

V 14

1st X^o

Handwritten musical score for the first system, measures 1-3. The system includes a vocal line with a melodic line and a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, measures 4-6. The system includes a vocal line with rests and a piano accompaniment with a solo section labeled "Solo" and "DR".

Handwritten musical score for the third system, measures 7-9. The system includes a vocal line with rests and a piano accompaniment with a tutti section labeled "Tutti" and "D".

Handwritten musical score for the fourth system, measures 10-12. The system includes a vocal line with rests and a piano accompaniment with a tutti section labeled "Tutti" and "D".

V 15

DC PART I
al FINE

March of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment

Arrangement: Robert Percich, TSgt., USAF
Tactical Air Command Band
Langley Air Force Base, Virginia
February 1978

Source: Die Regimentsmusik von Royal Deux-Ponts vor Yorktown
Rudolf Karl Tröss, Pfälzischer Merkur, No. 289, 16 December 1975,
p. 19, Zweibrücken

LOCKMARSCH / ALA Marcia

V 16

Handwritten musical score for a band, titled "LOCKMARSCH / ALA Marcia" (V 16). The score is divided into two systems, each with two staves. The first system includes a key signature change to B-flat major (two flats) and a time signature of 4/4. The second system includes a key signature change to C major (no flats) and a time signature of 4/4. The score is marked with "1." and "2." indicating first and second endings. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "Sfz" and "Cym".

1.

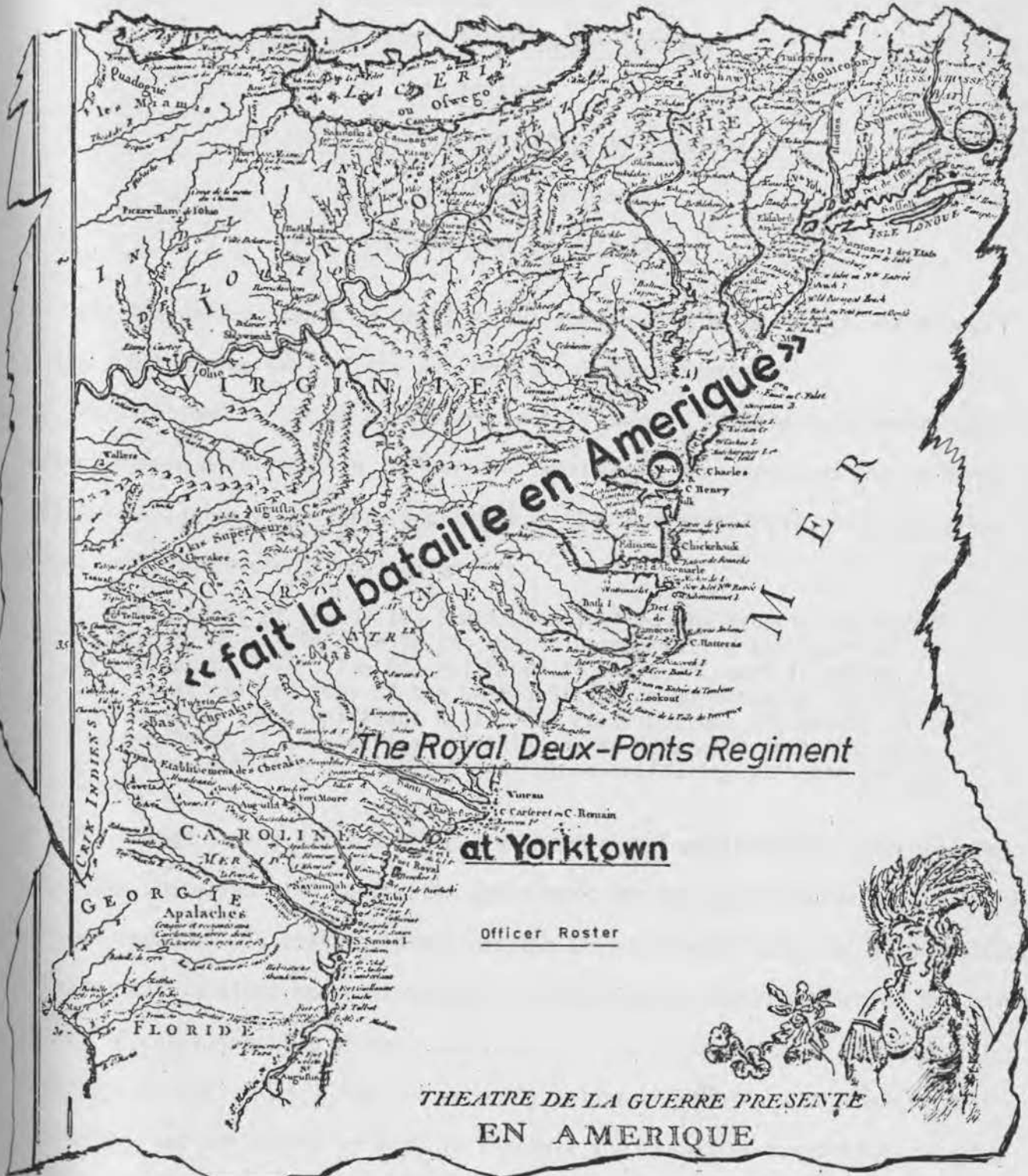
2.

Sfz

Cym

Picc f Flv

Bimile DR.



by Rudolf Karl Tröss

THE OFFICERS ROSTER OF
THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMPAIGN
IN AMERICA
THE REGIMENT ROYAL DEUX-PONTS AT YORKTOWN

by Rudolf Karl Tröss

revised translation by Wolf Prow

For the United States of America, the summer of 1976 brings celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Preparations for these events are in full swing. Official statements concerning German participation in American development have appeared and in March 1974 the following assertion was printed in "Das Parlament" (#9, 2 March 1974), a West German government publication:

"The President of the United States has invited the Federal Republic of Germany to participate in the events commemorating the American Revolution of 1776. The Federal Republic, in turn, sees in the Bicentennial celebrations of the United States an opportunity not only to emphasize the significant historical contributions of Germans in the emergence of the American colonies as an independent state, but also to express publicly our present and future solidarity with the United States."

The United States Capitol Historical Society has established a Bicentennial Commission concerned with laying the groundwork for the 200th anniversary of American independence. In these preparations, the City of Zweibrücken was also included as having made a significant historical contribution to the emergence of the United States. A representative of the Commission for the preparation of bicentennial celebrations, Mrs. Perry W. Moore, recently delivered greetings of the citizens of Yorktown and the County of York in Virginia and presented a reproduction of a historic battle map in remembrance of the Battle of Yorktown in the year 1781 in which the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts had such a glorious part.

The government of the Federal Republic appointed former Ambassador Dr. Heinz L. Krekeler as Voluntary Coordinator for German lands, communities and private organizations. Dr. Krekeler was Germany's first ambassador to the United States after World War Two for a period of eight years. The Society of the Friends of the Palatinate in Bavaria opened an exhibition in the Maximilianeum of Munich in October of this year [1975] with the title "Palatinate-Bavarian documents about the American War of Independence." This exhibition is supported by the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany located in Munich. The historical material concerning the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts which was compiled and selected in Zweibrücken, will form the core of the Munich exhibit. It so happens that in the nick of time we shall be able to enrich the exhibit with a significant item which contains the following:

The Register of Officers

According to the Officers' Roster of 26 June 1783, originally recorded at Camp Guingamp in Brittany and kept by the Service Historique de l'Armée Française in the Castle of Vincennes, the following officers of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts participated in the decisive campaign of the American War of Independence that culminated in the fateful Battle of Yorktown on 19 October 1781. Their names bear the notation "fait la bataille en Amérique" ("has participated in the American campaign"), and deserve to be recorded for posterity in the history of the City of Zweibrücken. In addition to the already and frequently mentioned sons of Duke Christian IV. and his wife the French dancer Marianne Camasse, we find many others.

IMPOVERISHED NOBLEMEN

MAKE THE BEST OFFICERS

Of the officers it is said: "The good officers surely are the reliable ones. They are chiefly the impoverished noblemen who, so to say, have nothing to call

their own but the cloak and the sword. (The cloak being the traditional cape worn by Knights). When they are appointed to live respectably, according to their position, and with a living standard in keeping with their station in life, they will regard military service with the reverence attending entry into a religious order and they will know no home other than their military unit". (de Sinclaire)

THE OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT ROYAL DEUX-PONTS

The sons of the Duke of Zweibrücken were the highest ranking officers of the regiment and were honored with the campaign Annotation. They are:

1. Christian Baron of Zweibrücken and Count of Forbach, (1752-1817).
Colonel in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts, served in America from 1780 to 1783.
2. Wilhelm Baron of Zweibrücken and Viscount of Forbach (1754-1807).
Second Colonel in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts. He is the famous conqueror of Redoubt Nine at Yorktown during the encounter of 14 October 1781.



Wilhelm, Freiherr von Zweibrücken und Graf von Forbach

Guillaume des Deux-Ponts, Vicomte de Forbach

Count William of Deux-Ponts

1754 - 1807

The Officers' Register gives the unit designations and names of officers of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts who fought at Yorktown as follows:

The Officers of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment

who fought in America

* special mention

I. BATTALION

1st Company of Grenadiers

- *1. De Klock, Bernard Antoine, Captain - Commander born in Sobernheim
- 2. Baron de Kalb, Henry Jules Alexandre, born in Saxony on the 25th of July 1753, Second Lieutenant
- 3. Bayerfalk, Michael, born in Steinselz, (Duchy of Zweibrücken) on the 19th of July 1739, Subaltern
- 4. Baron of Haak, Charles Ernest, born in Herzogenrath in Thuringia on the 2nd of January 1752, Secondary Captain
- 5. Baron of Gallatin, Gaspard Gabriel, born in Geneva (Switzerland) on the 19th of March 1758, ranking Lieutenant
- 6. Baron of Egloffstein, Subaltern

2nd Company of Fürstenwaerther

- *1. Baron Von Closen, Jean Christoph Ignace Louis Frédéric, born in Monsheim on the 14th of August 1755, Secondary Captain
- 2. Baron of Schwengsfeld, Frédéric, born in Alsace on the 16th of August 1760. Second Lieutenant
- 3. Baron of Hoen (Von Dillenburg), Christoph Fredrich, born in Beblenheim on the 23rd of July 1761, Subaltern.
- *4. Baron of Fürstenwaerther, Charles, Born in Meisenheim on the 23rd of August 1741, Captain Commander, Order of Saint Louis.*
- 5. Baron of Schauenburg, Francois Andre Baltasar, born on the 1st of October, 1760 (or 1761), Second Lieutenant

6. Chevalier de Gallonye, Charles Florian Joseph, born in Lorraine on the 14th of April 1753, Subaltern

3rd Company of Fladen

- *1. Von Fladen, Charles Louis, born in Mannheim on the 17th of July 1738, Captain Commander
2. Baron of Hoen, (Von Dillenburg), Phillipp Fredrich, born in Beblenheim on the 15th of June 1759, Subaltern (Upper Alsace)
- *3. Schleyder, Frideric, born in Mausbach (Duchy of Zweibrücken) on the 2nd of October 1742, Subaltern.
4. Chevalier of Haack, Secondary Captain.
5. Baron of Glaubitz, Chretien Sigismond, born in Strasburg on the 12th of August 1758, First Lieutenant.
6. Von Peschery, Charles Mathieu, born in Hemmingen, Subaltern

4th Company of Sundahl

- *1. Von Sundahl, Chretien Louis Philippe, born in the city of Zweibrücken on the 10th of May 1734, Captain Commander
2. Baron of Furks, Charles Reinhold, born in Mittau, (Duchy of Courland) on the 10th of May 1738, Secondary Captain
3. Stoertz, Jean, born in the city of Zweibrücken on the 18th of February 1726, Second Lieutenant
4. Baron of Ichttersheim, Franz Reinhard, born in Hemsbach on the 4th of August 1754, First Lieutenant
5. Von Zoller, Jean Frederic Denis Eloy, born in Baden on the 24th of May 1761, Subaltern

5th Company of Rühle

- *1. Von Rühle of Lilienstern, Charles Wilhelm, born in Hildburghausen on the 3rd day of October 1740, Captain Commander.
2. Baron of Schauenburg, First Lieutenant
3. Baron Von Johann, Leopold Ferdinand, born in Bosserheim (Alsace) on the 11th of September 1751, Secondary Captain.

4. Chevalier de Gallois, Jean Phillippe, born in Creange on the 9th of January 1764, Second Lieutenant.
5. deSavignac, Marie Laurens Felix, born in Lons-le-Saulnier on the 18th of April 1763, Subaltern

II. BATTALION

1st Company of Wisch

1. Von Wisch, Jean Christoph, (Duchy of Holstein) on the 22nd of May 1739, born in Schleswig, Captain Commander
2. Baron of Bibra, Jean Ignatz Ferdinand, born on the 31st of July 1756, First Lieutenant
3. Schauck, Henry, born in Meisenheim (Duchy of Zweibrücken) on the 7th day of August 1732, Secondary Captain
4. Vicomte de Puger, Marie Francois, born in Cuisseau (Burgundy) on the 5th of May 1753, Second Lieutenant
5. Baron of Ruppelin, Jean Nepomuc Bonaventura, born in Maude, Subaltern

2nd Company of Thuillieres

1. Baron de Thuillieres, Charles Francois, born in Lorraine on the 21st of June 1739, Captain Commander
2. Chevalier of Ichtersheim, Francois Charles, born in the 25th of August 1756, First Lieutenant
3. Count of Spauer, Felix Leopold Jean Nepomuc, born in April 1751, Secondary Captain
4. Baron of Rathsamshausen, Jean Baptiste Leopold, born in Muttersholz (Alsace) on the 10th of October 1754, Second Lieutenant
5. de Martines, Victor Henri Juste Pierre Lows, born in Aulbonne (near Berne, Switzerland) on the 20th of April 1758, Subaltern.

3rd Company of Haynault

- *1. Von Haynault, Charles Theodore, born in Mannheim on the 1st of August 1737, Secondary Captain
2. Baron of Esebeck, Charles George Friedrich, born in the city of Zweibrücken on the 16th of June 1752, Secondary Captain.
3. Baron of Guntzer, Charles Leonor, born in Strasburg on the 22nd of August 1760, Second Lieutenant.

4. de la Roche, Frederic (without detailed data) Subaltern
5. Baron of Horn (of Dillenburg), Jean Charles, born in Ribeauville on the 16th of June 1756, Second Lieutenant
6. Comte de Custine, Jean Robert Gaspard, probably born in Metz on the 1st of April 1764, Subaltern

4th Company of Cabannes

- *1. de Cabannes, Adam Maximilian, born in Siegen (Nassau) on the 24th of January 1741, Captain Commander
2. Ludwig, Jean Phillipe, born in Karlsruhe on the 28th of August 1728, Secondary Captain
3. de Bertrand, Joseph Xavier, born in Avignon on the 15th of October 1758, First Lieutenant
4. Count of Schwerin, Wilhelm Henry Florus, born in Wiedrangel on the 31st of July 1754, Second Lieutenant
5. Von Tschudy, Pierre Louis, born in Nomeny (Lorraine) on the 23rd of January 1763, Subaltern

5th Company of Rangers

- *1. Von Stack, Eloy Francois Joseph, born in Fenétrange (Lorraine) the 1st of October 1763, Captain Commander
2. Chevalier of Humbert, Claude Jacques Francois, born in Forbach (Lorraine, Duchy of Zweibrücken) the 14th of July 1757, Second Lieutenant
3. de Ribeaupierre, Charles Roger, born in St. Avoird (Lorraine) on the 9th of January 1762, Second Lieutenant
4. Baron Von Mühlenfels, Charles Adams, born in Brauchershausen (Swedish Pomerania) on the 23rd of August 1748, Secondary Captain
- *5. Baron of Lutzau (probably Lützow) born on the 18th of May, 1758 (Place of birth is not indicated). The year of death is given as 1787. First Lieutenant
6. Verger, Jean Baptiste Antoine, born in Delemont (German Delsberg in Switzerland) on the 11th of July 1762 in Delemont, Subaltern

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Regimental Staff

1. Baron Von Esebeck, Louis Eberhard, born in the City of Zweibrücken on the 19th of January 1740, Lieutenant Colonel.
- *2. Des Prez, Louis Amable, born in Cranier (Vaud, a Canton of Switzerland) on the 16th of July 1730, Major
3. Mittmann, Jean Pierre Wilhelm, born in Steinbockenheim on the 27th of January 1739, flag bearer or ensign
4. Hauck, Jean George, born in Oberhausen (Duchy of Zweibrücken) on the 18th of August 1739, flag bearer or ensign

Printed in "Pfälzischer Merkur"
No. 187 a, Friday, 15 August 1975

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Translated originally by Mrs. Winter, Tabb High School, March 1976

Revised translation:

12 November 1976
Tabb, Virginia
by Wolf Prow



"My German Regiment"

In a follow-up article entitled "Mein deutsches Regiment" which appeared in "Die Rheinpfalz" on 1 July 1976, Mr. Tröss describes decorations, promotions and royal favors bestowed on officers of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts upon the victorious completion of the American Campaign. These are summarized and refer to the names identified with * asterisks in the preceding officer roster: Von Stengel, Franz Xavier, is appointed subaltern in the Company Fladen which was vacated by the transfer of Friedrich Schleyder.

Schleyder, Friedrich, was one of the few commoners holding a commission in the regiment. Born as the son of simple peasants in the Western Palatinate and Duchy of Zweibrücken, Schleyder served with distinction for 35 years rising from enlisted men to non-commissioned officer to officer with the rank of captain in 1790 in the body guards of Zweibrücken's Karl II.

Von Fürstenwaerther, Charles Leopold, is an offspring of Zweibrücken's court nobility. He was born in 1741 and died in 1802. Rising to the rank of Captain in 1768, he is described as "steadfast, intelligent and industrious" and recommended for promotion to Major. He eventually rose to Colonel in the Regiment Royal Suedois. Through the second marriage of his mother, he becomes Uncle to Baron Von Closen.

Des Prez, Louis Amable, reached the age of 61. His brother, Etienne Philibert, (1733-1803) was also serving in America as a Major in the regiment, but remained in charge of provisions and supplies in Providence, Rhode Island, while the campaign in the south progressed. He was recommended for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Von Stack, Eloy Franz, had transferred from the Regiment d' Alsace to the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts in May 1765 as subaltern. In March 1778 he was commissioned Captain. He led the ranger company in the attack on Redoubt 9. Wilhelm of Zweibrücken requested that Von Stack be awarded an annual merit pay of 600 livres for "bravery and due care".

Von Klock, Anton, was born in 1736 and entered service in the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts as sergeant in August of 1756. In August 1758 he became ensign and in April 1768 he was commissioned captain. His evaluation in a letter to the King reads: "This is an officer of greatest merit, worthy to take the place of officers of much higher rank. He was present with his company of grenadiers during the attack on the redoubt at York which was reduced by the company of grenadiers and the company of rangers."

Even before the Battle of Yorktown, von Klock had been awarded the "Croix de Saint Louis", a decoration designed for meritorious officers of Catholic persuasion. (For Protestant officers the "Ordre du Merite Militaire" was created) For his merits at Yorktown, Von Klock was awarded this "Cross of military merit".

Von Fladen	}	recommended for the award of the cross of military merit
Von Sundahl		
Von Hainault		
Von Ruhle		

de Cabannes, Charles	}	recommended for the award of the Order of St. Louis
de Cabannes, Max		

Von Fladen, Charles, was born 1738 in Mannheim and was promoted to Captain in the regiment in 1777

Von Sundahl, Christian Ludwig, was born in Zweibrücken in May 1735 as son of the Court Architect Sundahl. He originally entered the service of the Prince of Waldeck in 1754, and in April 1757 he became ensign in the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment. A Waldeck unit of 1,200 men was unscrupulously and recklessly raised to regimental strength, in 1776 and sold to the King of England for service in America. Sundahl was a veteran of the entire Seven-Years-War and in 1779 he became Captain Commander of the Sundahl Company.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

The names of officers given in the roster of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment are at once revealing and at the same time hinting at mysteries. Despite the gaullic appearance of first names and the French designation of "de" for the German "Von", the predominance of German names is noteworthy. Some of these, such as Schwerin, Lützow, Esebeck, Mühlenfels, Dillenburg, etc., have become famous in German history. The **diversity** of regions from which these officers came indicates that military service was truly international. The number of Swiss serving in the regiment is considerable, but other parts of France and Germany are well represented in that officers from Courland (East Prussia), Saxony, Schleswig, Pomerania, and especially from Alsace and Lorraine were commissioned to form the Corps of officers. Another observation is the age grouping with so many Lieutenants being 30 years or older, but many not yet 20. The oldest officer listed is Major de Prez from Switzerland, who was 51 years of age at the time of the Battle of Yorktown. Another observation is the predominance of nobility in the officers' ranks. Indeed, there are very few "commoners" holding commissions, Bayerfalk, Schleyder, Stoertz, Ludwig, Verger and Mittmann being the exception, but examples that upward mobility was possible. Brothers served in different companies and it can be assumed that officers formed a distinct and closed group.

The designations of companies here arranged by number and Battalion are revealing in that the commanding officer often bore the same name. For example, Sundahl is famous in Zweibrücken since this Swedish architect designed the Duke's Castle. Captain Sundahl was an offspring of this influential Swedish family.

The absence - or deletion - of entries could hint at changes made during or after the French Revolution. Lützow, or "Lutzau" - attained fame in Germany, but notoriety in France for leading the "Free Corps" against Napoleon's forces. Here the date of his demise is specifically given to stress that this Deux-Ponts officer was not the one to rise against France. All in all, 63 officers are listed, including the two sons of the Zweibrücken branch of the House of Wittelsbach. General Orders of 19 February 1757 established the number of officers per company: One Captain as commanding officer, one Secondary Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, and one subaltern. Here all six officers are still given. It is incredible by present standards, that three years after the completion of a campaign the officers' corps would remain virtually unchanged. It is likely that casualties, promotions, transfers, and resignations resulted in the omission of some names of officers who did serve or die at Yorktown.

The companies were made up of 113 men each. Every six companies formed a battalion of 668 men. There is little mention of the soldiers. The Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment in America appears to have been at peacetime strength at the time of embarkation and consisted of only two battalions, each having five companies. Battalions of 565 men were larger than English units of that time. British regiments, too, were much smaller than comparable French counterparts. The Royal Deux-Ponts was one of the largest French units in America since other regiments furnished only contingents for the campaign. The Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was indeed a powerful and combat-proven unit.

The document is revealing as well as puzzling, but constitutes an important historical record.

Tabb, County of York, Virginia

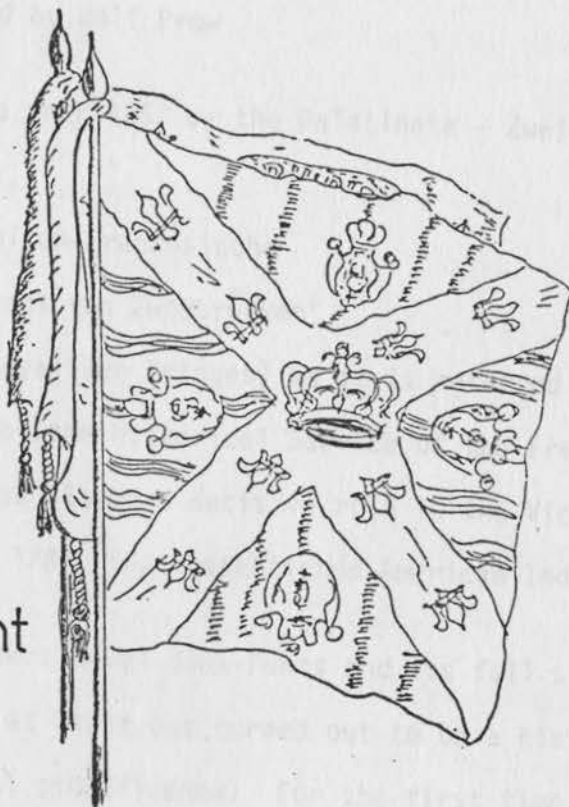
19 November 1976

VII

FLAGS

of the

Regiment



Royal Deux-Ponts

by R.K.Tröss

5 October 1974

The Flags of the Regiment

Royal-Deux-Ponts

They flew at Yorktown

by Rudolf Karl Tröss

translated by Wolf Prow

The Regiment activated in the year 1757 by the Palatinate - Zweibrücken Duke Christian IV. & known as the

"Deutsche Königlich-Französische

Infanterie - Regiment von Zweibrücken"

or generally "Royal Deux-Ponts" (Royal Two Bridges) as it is referred to in the regimental records maintained by the Historical Service of the French Army in the Castle of Vincennes, has played a decisive role in the Victory of Yorktown on the 19th of October 1781, that established American Independence.

The combat record of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts and its full significance was probably not appreciated at first but turned out to be a history shaping force of worldwide political significance. For the first time in history we encounter a German - French - American military coalition. This alliance, reliable and well proven, found symbolic and visible expression in the flags of the Regiment Deux-Ponts that fluttered at Yorktown and were distinguished by the laurels of Victory.

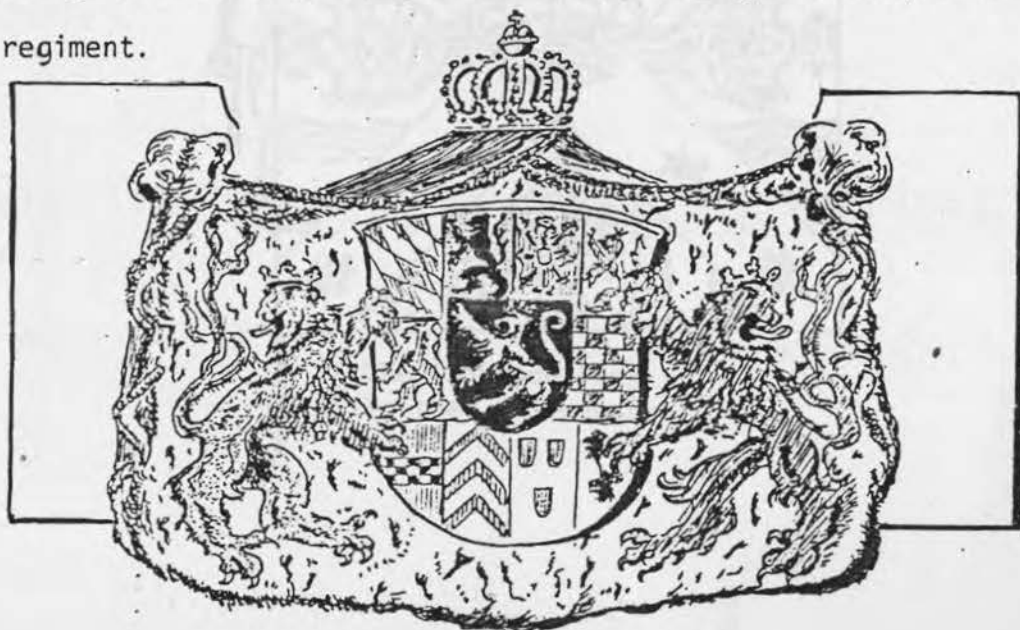
At all times silent field symbols existed to distinguish individual military units from each other at a distance, to facilitate troop movements and especially to assemble the units and to regroup them in military order in the event of disorganization.

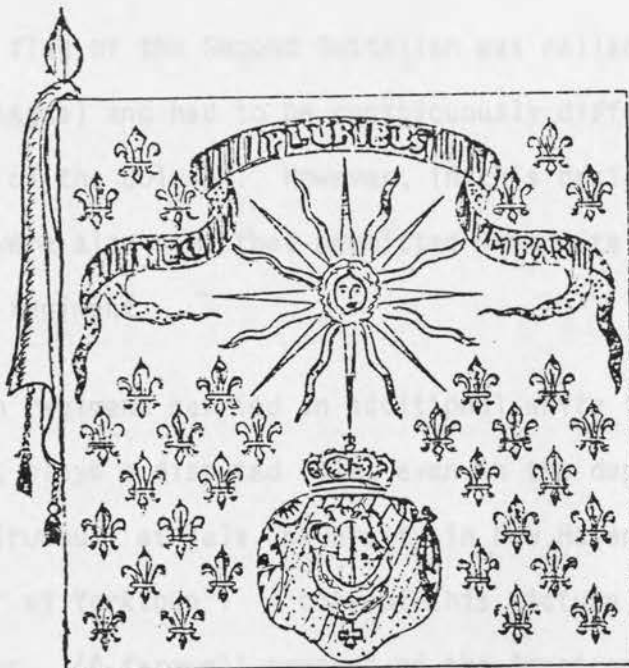
At one time, each company had its own flag, or its own standard. In the





case of infantry, companies were counted by the number of standards. It was said for example: In the garrison of town X there are ten standards, which was to mean that ten companies of infantry were stationed there. Later, the number of flags was limited to three for an infantry battalion. With the peace treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, the number of flags was reduced to two.

To allow for the fact that regiments in those days were named after countries, provinces, and cities, great emphasis had to be placed on the heraldic and artistic design of flags which were customarily accorded high honors. The Regiment Royal-Deux-Ponts possessed two flags from 1758-1791 under the sovereigns Louis XV and Louis XVI.

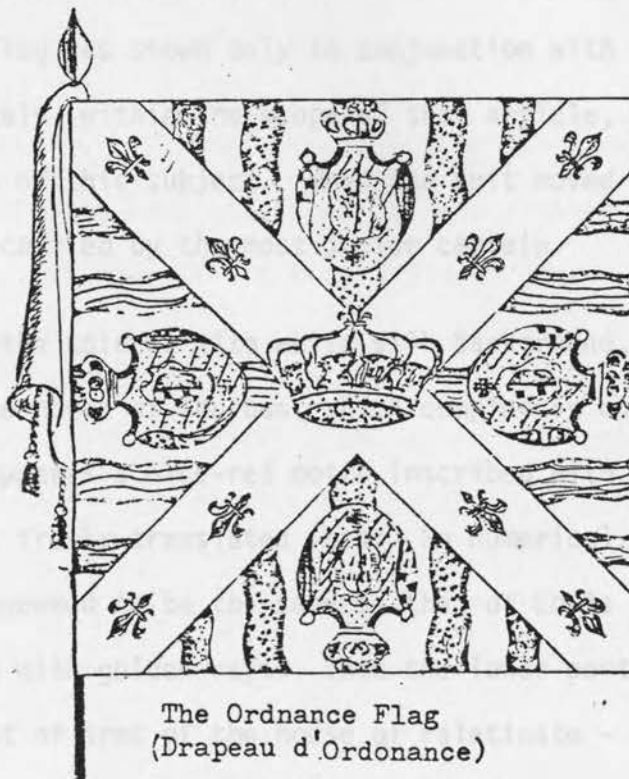
The flag of the First Battalion was designated as the Flag of the Colonel (Drapeau Colonel). Before that there was even a special company under the direct personal command of the Colonel, the "Compagnie Colonelle," that did exist even in the Regiment Deux-Ponts. It was mandatory that the flag of the colonel be kept in the same basic color scheme as the coat of arms of the sovereign and be embellished with the heraldic symbol unique and distinctive of the regiment.





-  red
-  dark blue
-  light blue
-  gold

The Flag of the Colonel
(Drapeau de Colonel)



The Ordnance Flag
(Drapeau d'Ordonance)

The flag of the Second Battalion was called the Ordnance Flag (Drapeau d' Ordonnance) and had to be conspicuously different in color and design from the Flag of the Colonel. However, in this design, illustrious emblems and symbols were also used that permitted immediate recognition and identification with the regiment.

Each regiment carried an additional white flag at one time, which, incidentally, plays a disputed role, even in the depiction of the famous picture by John Trumbull at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, entitled "The Surrender at Yorktown". A copy of this picture hangs in the office of the Lord Mayor. (A farewell present of the American Colonel Ewell).

The white flag was attached to the oldest company of the regiment. Subsequently, the white flag was shown only in conjunction with a flag having distinct colors. Unfortunately, within the scope of this article, we have to forego further discussions of this subject. When the unit moved toward the enemy, the white flag was carried by the most junior captain.

The Colors of the Colonel with white silk background, show full-blossomed, golden lilies of the house of Bourbon, which completely cover the background. In the upper part appears a blue-red motto inscribed with the Latin inscription: Nec Pluribus Impar, freely translated into: No numerical superiority impairs us. (This motto happened to be the same as that of Louis XIV, the "Sun King"). Beneath it is a sun with golden rays. Into the lower portion of the flag is embroidered the coat of arms of the house of Palatinate - Zweibrücken. (p.VII 2)

Deutsches
Königlich-Französisches Infanterie-Regiment
von Zweibrücken,
^{oder}
ROYAL-DEUX-PONTS.

VII 5

The Ordnance Colors show a diagonally placed white cross of St. Andrew that divides the flag into four fields. The center of the cross is dominated by the graphically represented royal crown of Bourbon with the symbol of lilies. In each of the beam sections of the cross are two golden bourbonian lilies. The triangular fields of the flag are adorned with alternating flaming stripes of sky blue and crimson; the upper and lower fields by red, the side fields with blue stripes.

Each field also includes the coat of arms of the house of Palatinate - Zweibrücken, just as hewn into the stones of the archway at the Zweibrücken Castle which is now the Palace of Justice. [See VII 2]

The shield holders of The Coat of Arms of the Dukes of Palatinate - Zweibrücken are two erect, crowned lions standing at the right and the left. Mantling surrounds the entire design with the ducal crown at the top.

Upper row from right to left: Bavaria, blue-silver, diagonally executed; Jülich, black lion in gold; Cleve, in red eight golden staffs in the shape of a wheel that grows from a silver plaque; Berg, red lion with blue crown kept in silver.

Center row, from left to right. Veldenz, blue lion with red crown kept in silver; Palatinate, golden lion with red crown kept in black; Sponheim, checkered in red and silver.

Lower row, from left to right: Mark, a beam consisting of three checkered rows kept in red; Ravensberg, three red chevrons or silver; Rappolstein, three (2 on top, 1 below) red shields on silver; Hohenack, three (2 on top 1 below) black, crowned raven heads with red beaks on silver."



It had become the custom at that time to have the new flags awarded regiments blessed by the church. This occasion took place with great pomp and ceremony. Amidst drum rolls, trumpet calls, even rifle firing of the assembled troops, the flags were presented. Afterwards, the troops entered the cathedral, or most prominent church of the garrison town in formation, and with flags still cased, attended the service in the course of which the bishop or highest ranking minister blessed the flags with the invocation of prayers, the sign of the cross over the flags, and sprinkling with holy water. Upon completion of these impressive ceremonies, the troops moved with now flying colors to their quarters.

The flag was accorded honor and veneration hardly conceivable or imaginable nowadays. In those days the flags could, as a rule, be carried only by officers or sergeants who had proven themselves through bravery and loyalty in all situations. Flag escorts were provided by non-commissioned officers whose courage and steadfastness of character could be depended upon.

Each flag occupied the first row in the center of the battalion. The concepts of honor of this period were contained in the "military alphabet" a code of incredible severity: The flag bearer may never leave his flag. He who is unfortunate enough to suffer defeat, has to accept the flag as death shroud. That was the inexorable law governing life beneath the flag.

According to French versions of military history, the Regiment Royal-Deux-Ponts has existed as a regiment of the "Ancien Regime" from 1757 to 1791 or 34 years, full twelve years longer than our Zweibrücken home regiment, the Royal Bavarian 22nd Infantry Regiment. During the period 1757 to 1763, it formed part of the army of Saxony under Prince of Soubise, participated in the Seven-year-war, experienced the first commitment to battle at Rossbach in November 1757, distinguished itself at Sondershausen in 1758, fought at Bergen in 1759, Korbach in 1760, Stangerode in 1761 and during the years 1757 to 1761 in lesser campaigns of Villingshausen, Fürstenberg and Wolfenbüttel.

After this war, the regiment was garrisoned from 1763 to 1778 in Lorraine and Alsace from where it went to Zweibrücken.

During the years 1767 to 1770 it was stationed in Strasburg, (Alsace) then in Lille, Dunkirque and Metz. In the year 1778 the regiment was in Landerneau (a port city in the French area of Finistère) and in Saint Paul de Lezon. Then it participated in the American Revolutionary War. It was on the 4th of April 1780 that the regiment embarked at the French naval base of Brest for the Voyage to North America.* In the year 1783 it returned glory-covered to Europe. As reward for its bravery, General Washington sent along three captured English cannons and directed the Regimental commander, Count Wilhelm of Zweibrücken - Forbach, to deliver them to the King of France along with English flags captured at Yorktown.

Upon its return, the regiment was stationed successively in Landau (Palatinate), Pfalzburg, Metz, Hünigen, New Breisach, again in Metz and in 1791 in

* Interpreter's Note: According to Count von Closen, nine men died and hundreds were seasick during the voyage.

Verdun. The French National Assembly having replaced the authority of the guillotined King, promulgated an edict on the 1st of January 1791 whereby the prefix "Royal" was deleted and regiments were assigned numbers. Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts became the 99th Infantry Regiment of the Line. The first flag now is the tri-colored national flag. The Ordnance flag maintains the colors of the unit's uniforms.

The 99th Regiment of the Line participated in the campaigns of the French Revolutionary armies. The first battalion of the Regiment joined the Northern army. The 2nd Battalion was present during the bombardment of Valmy in the Champagne area on the 20th of September 1792, at the same time that Goethe was there who wrote about it prophetically: "From here and today emanates a new epoch of world history and you will be able to say you were there."

In the year 1793, the 1st Battalion was assigned to the Army of the Ardennes under the command of General Hoche. It distinguished itself at Leybach and at Kaiserslautern (November 1793) where it suffered heavy casualties. At Thionville in the Province of Lorraine, the regiment was again brought up to full complement and remained until April before joining the Morlot Division in the Palatinate.

The 99th French Infantry Regiment of the line continued the traditions of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment. In 1854 the regiment was stationed for the first time in Lyon. Monsieur Herriot, former mayor of Lyon and premier, said during the bicentennial celebration of the regiment in 1957: "The City of Lyon has adopted this beautiful Regiment."

In the year 1920 when the regiment returned from the first World War to its garrison, the City of Lyon dedicated a flag to the 99th Infantry Regiment. This flag is extraordinarily significant for the city of Zweibrücken. One side

of the flag which is devoted exclusively to the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts, features the names of the most significant battles, including Yorktown. This side is dominated by a square standing on its tip with the current form of the Zweibrücken coat of arms in the colors blue, gold and red appearing along with the heraldic lion. [The square also bears the dates 1757 and 1781]

On the reverse side of the flag are historic dates of the 99th French Infantry Regiment of the Line as the registered successor of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts.

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Sources: Diderot's and l'Alembert's Encyclopedia; French officers who furnished information about the flags; special publications for the City of Lyon's 2000 year celebration; The Bavarian Army Museum; and the German-American Mr. Henry Ladenberger who materially assisted in the research.

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Translation: Tabb, County of York, Virginia

6 May 1976





VIII

SUMMARY

AND

REVIEW

OFFICER
of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment

after a photograph of a figurine in
NYMPHENBURG Porcelain

[Günther Bartz, ZWEIBRÜCKEN, Graf Verlag, Speyer, 1974]

wolf prow

February 1978



CARTE
DU THEATRE DE LA GUERRE PRESENTE
EN AMERIQUE
Dressée

d'après les Nouvelles Cartes Anglaises
par L. DENIS

Géographe et Auteur du Conducteur Français

DEDIEE et PRESENTEE

A MONSIEUR LE NOIR

Conseiller d'Etat, Lieutenant général de Police &c.

Par son très humble serviteur

RASSET

en 1779

SUMMARY & REVIEW

Sleepy and peaceful Yorktown in Virginia overlooks the majestic York River that flows gently into Chesapeake Bay. The rhythmic fall and rise of the tides place Yorktown into the ceaseless scheme of natural events. The tides are also a constant reminder of the nearness of the sea and the avenue of trade and commerce for links with the world. As seaport and portal to the American continent, Yorktown has occupied a place of importance in American history that far exceeds its size and extent. The small town is a relict of the past and retains a fading flavor of the 18th century when far reaching decisions were made and the clash of arms determined in a crucial battle that the newly established United States of America would emerge as a free and independent nation.

Although automobiles travel on Main Street, electric wires run overhead, and a modern bridge spans the narrowest part of the York River to connect Virginia's lower peninsula with Gloucester and counties North, much of the town purposely recaptures an 18th century setting and basks in the backwaters of history. The atmosphere of colonial America lingers on and is fadingly reflected by weathered tombstones in the graveyard of Grace Church, the brickwork of English and Flemish bond, by shutters, gables and chimneys. The soil, too, contains artifacts of bygone eras. Shards and fragments of the earthenware produced by the "Poor Potter of Yorktown" pave a street and more find their way to the surface after a heavy rain.

Yorktown also serves as a reminder of war and conflict. Cannonballs embedded in the walls of Nelson House, bullets and metal implements, old guns, and the earth mounds of fortifications attest to a battle that was the climax of the Revolutionary War. Markers and signs direct the visitor to these earthen walls that once witnessed the bursting of shells, the charge of soldiers, the clash of armies, and the surrender of the British forces.

In 1781, here at Yorktown, the last major battle of the War for Independence was fought. It was a combined operation of naval and land forces, of multi-lingual allies, of diverse weapons, and of regulars and militia.

The British, commanded by Lord Charles Cornwallis numbered about 7,500 and included English, Scots, Irish, Welch, Germans, and even Americans. Opposing them as a combined force under General George Washington as supreme commander, were equally diverse American and French troops. The 5,200 American regulars - the continentals - came chiefly from the Northern states and included every element of the uniquely American fabric. They were commanded by colorful men of vastly different Backgrounds. Washington himself was the solid Virginia landowner, a gentleman and conservative, familiar with the land through years of experience as surveyor. There was dashing Lafayette, commanding the Light Infantry, the New Jersey and the Rhode Island units. The young French general was assisted by Peter Mühlenberg, a Pennsylvania-Dutch preacher's son.

The second American division of continentals, the New York Line, was commanded by Lincoln, a New England farmer who rose to prominence as militia commander and had recently suffered humiliating defeat and surrender at Charleston. Clinton, eventually to become Governor of New York, commanded the brigade of New York continentals. Henry Knox, an erstwhile bookstore owner from Boston and regarded as one of the ablest American officers, commanded the artillery.

Baron Friedrich von Steuben, former Prussian officer and organizer of the American Army, led the largest American Division made up of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware regiments, the Gaskins unit of Virginia, and the sappers and miners.

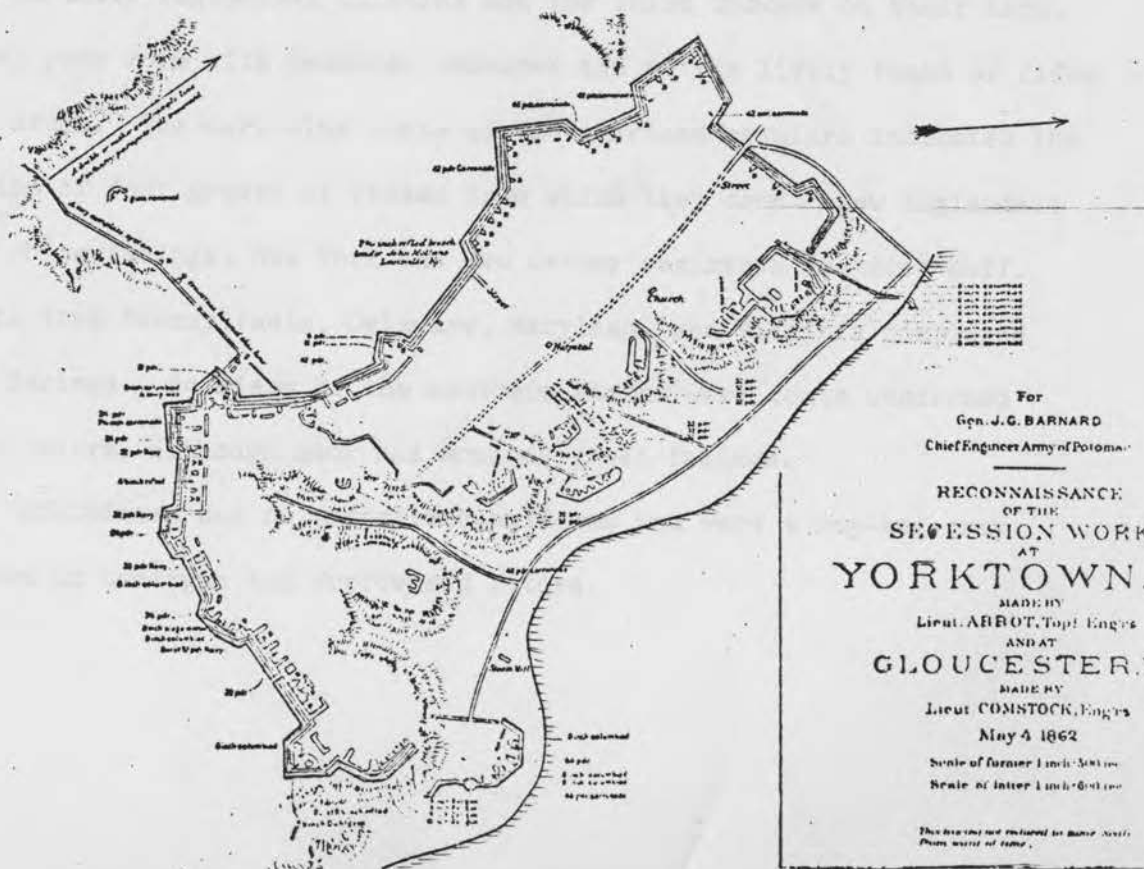
Finally, there was the militia from North Carolina and Virginia, about 3,000 strong, commanded by Thomas Nelson of Yorktown.

The French Expeditionary Forces of about 7,500 were a composite of various regions and many languages, ranging from the Irish Regiment Dillon, French regulars and colonial troops, to the German Infantry Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts. Patient and cooperative Count de Rochambeau commanded this important contingent of superbly equipped regulars. Rochambeau's subordinates included his brother, Vicomte Rochambeau, the Swedish Count von Fersen, the Zweibrücken Baron von Closen, the Viomenil brothers, St. Simon, de Choisy, Chastellux, the Duke of Lauzun, and other members of French nobility. Many of these French officers became victims of the Revolution that swept France in 1791, while others rose to prominence in Napoleon's army.

The most powerful French Regiment was the Royal Deux-Ponts, commanded by Christian Freiherr von Zweybrücken und Graf von Forbach. His younger brother Wilhelm was second in command and was classed "Vicomte" in the scale of French nobility as compared to the "Comte" of his older brother.

REFLECTIONS

Traces of the historic encounter abound in and around Yorktown. To be sure, there are many changes that took place since the dramatic days in October 1781. The banks of the York River have receded under the onslaught of erosion, time, and sea level rises. Sections of ramparts and redoubts, parapets and earthen works have crumbled and slid into the river below. Moreover, the 18th century fortifications became once more the scene of war as 19th century combatants of North and South opposed each other on that same ground. (See Map)



Finally, roads and bridges were constructed, buildings rose on what was once battlefield. A Victory Monument overlooks trees and town, ramparts and river. The works were restored to their 1781 appearance, but here and there are gentle mounds that remain as mute evidence of original fortifications. The ground still yields bullets, buttons, clay pipes, picks and other implements of two wars. Crosses and markers honor those who gave their lives in battle. Most of Yorktown's original lots allocated in 1691 are now in the hands of the U.S. Park Service or historically aware organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution to retain the flavor of past centuries.

While the gravesites of British soldiers and Hessians are now covered by the brackish waters of the York River, American and French soldiers rest in Virginia's earth. It is moving to study markers and signs ringing with the names of the past. It is as though the continentals in their regimental uniforms and the Union Cockade on their hats, march once more with measured cadences and to the lively tunes of fifes and drums. The dark blue coats of the American regulars indicated the region of four groups of states from which they came. New Englanders had white facings; New York and New Jersey regiments featured buff. Units from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia displayed red facings. Soldiers of the southern states wore coats unadorned with colors, although many had mounted green facings.

Militiamen had no prescribed uniforms and were a rag-tag army of men in homespun and improvised attire.

UN REGIMENT D'INFANTERIE ALLEMANDE

The strange and colorful names of French regiments of regulars pervade the Yorktown battlefield to this day. The important role of the French ally is manifested by flags of French units flying at the Information Center and over Redoubt Nine. French sailors traditionally call at Yorktown each October. There are also the French artillery pieces and mortars in their blue-grey paint at many places around the old battlefield. The names of the infantry units, Touraine, Gatinais, Agenois, Dillon, St. Onge, Soissonnais, Bourbonnais, and Royal Deux-Ponts stir in memory.

As on the American side with its many cultural and ethnic elements from every walk of life and every part of the country, the French were also a composite of geographic regions and various languages. Of particular interest is the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment, the largest unit of the French expeditionary corps under Rochambeau's command. The sky-blue coats lined with lemon-yellow facings were common in the trenches and on the walls of Yorktown. Two companies participated in the assault on Redoubt 9 under the leadership of Wilhelm von Zweybrücken. The Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was honored in many ways and is portrayed in the famous painting by Blarenberghe which shows the English surrender march flanked by the Deux-Ponts Regiment. (A reproduction of the painting adorns the current Yorktown Folder issued by the Park Service)

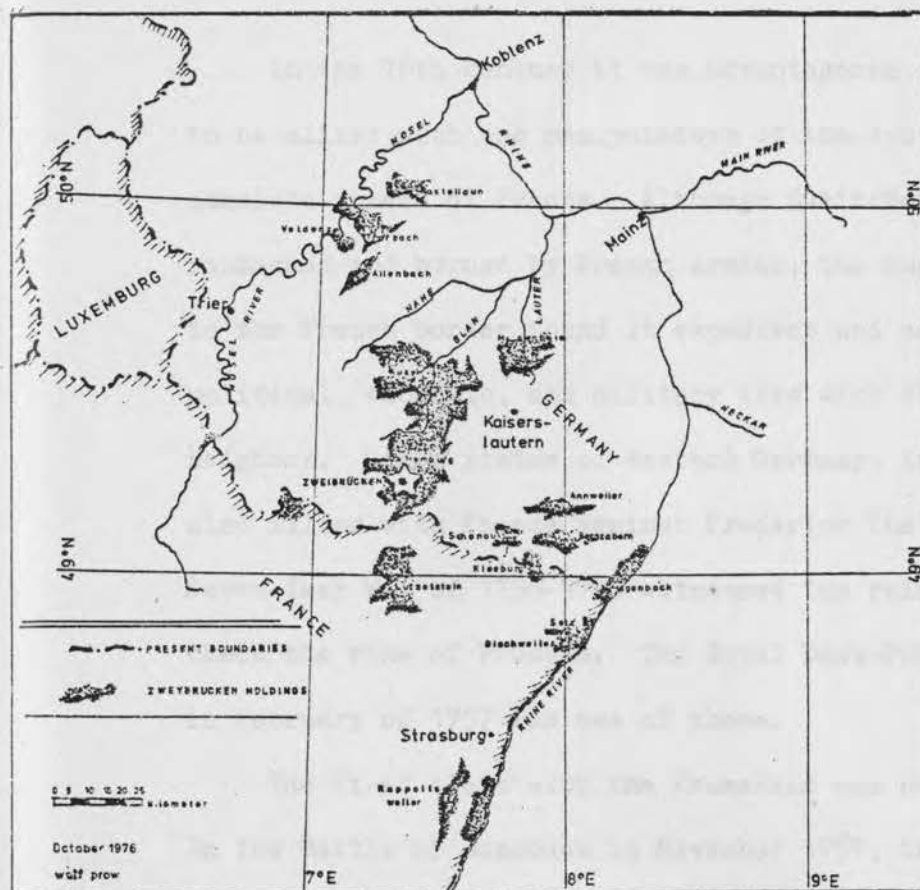
The Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts, German Regiment of Infantry from Zweibrücken, was indeed a predominantly German regiment of 63 officers and 1,150 men. In the book An Outline History of the American Revolution, (Ernest Dupuy and Trevor Dupuy, Harper and Row, New York, 1975, p. 216) historians mention that "the officers' roster contains an amazing number of German names."

In most historical accounts of the Revolutionary War, the Hessians are regarded as the German element and have been frequently the subject of vicious propaganda. Joseph P. Tustin writes in the Introduction of the book "Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal" (Captain Johann Ewald, Yale University Press, 1979):

"The Hessians were not the ogres they were represented as being in school books, nor were they inhuman or rapacious, although they fought ruthlessly at times. The charge that they were cruel barbarians was untrue and was used as a political weapon."

Tustin also remarks: "As the war dragged on, the German troops were better liked and more civilly treated than were the British soldiery, particularly in Virginia..." The "Hessians" actually comprised German troops from Hesse-Cassel, Brunswick, Hesse-Hanau, Anspach, Bayreuth, Waldeck and Anhalt-Zerbst. The Hessians numbered 29,867 who suffered 1,200 battle casualties and 6,354 losses through illnesses and accidents. An estimated 5,000 Hessians remained in America and less than two thirds returned to their homeland. It must be remembered that Hesse had been allied with Prussia and England and that France was regarded as a traditional enemy. The English crown paid £ 4,584,450 in subsidies which the rulers of small German principalities used for personal gain. However, the pay of the Hessians was comparable to the British army.

The Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment, on the other hand, represented a German Duchy allied with France and had a history of fighting the Prussians. They were not mercenaries and fought as a national unit. Christian of Zweibrücken is the leftmost person in Trumbull's famous painting and was regarded as representative of an independent state.



The Duchy of Zweibrücken in the 18th Century

Zweibrücken was a Duchy with scattered holdings in the 18th century and one of the numerous principalities of Germany. The spelling "Zweybrücken" was common in the 18th century and means "Two Bridges" in English, or "Deux Ponts" in French. The Duchy was replete with Duke, castle, coinage, and even embassies in other European countries.

The Zweibrücken line of the House of Wittelsbach produced the Swedish

King Karl XII and also Bavaria's crowned heads of whom Maximilian was the first. The most famous of the Zweibrücken Dukes was Christian IV who was a devotee of the arts and sciences and under whose reign the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was activated.

Recruiting posters seeking to attract young men to the Regiment promised not only a handsome enlistment bonus, but offered free instructions in dancing and fencing and promised to turn illiterates into persons able to read and write. It is of interest that the German version of the poster raises hopes for rapid promotions for those "versed in German and French" while the French text offers advancement opportunities for men who "speak and write French."

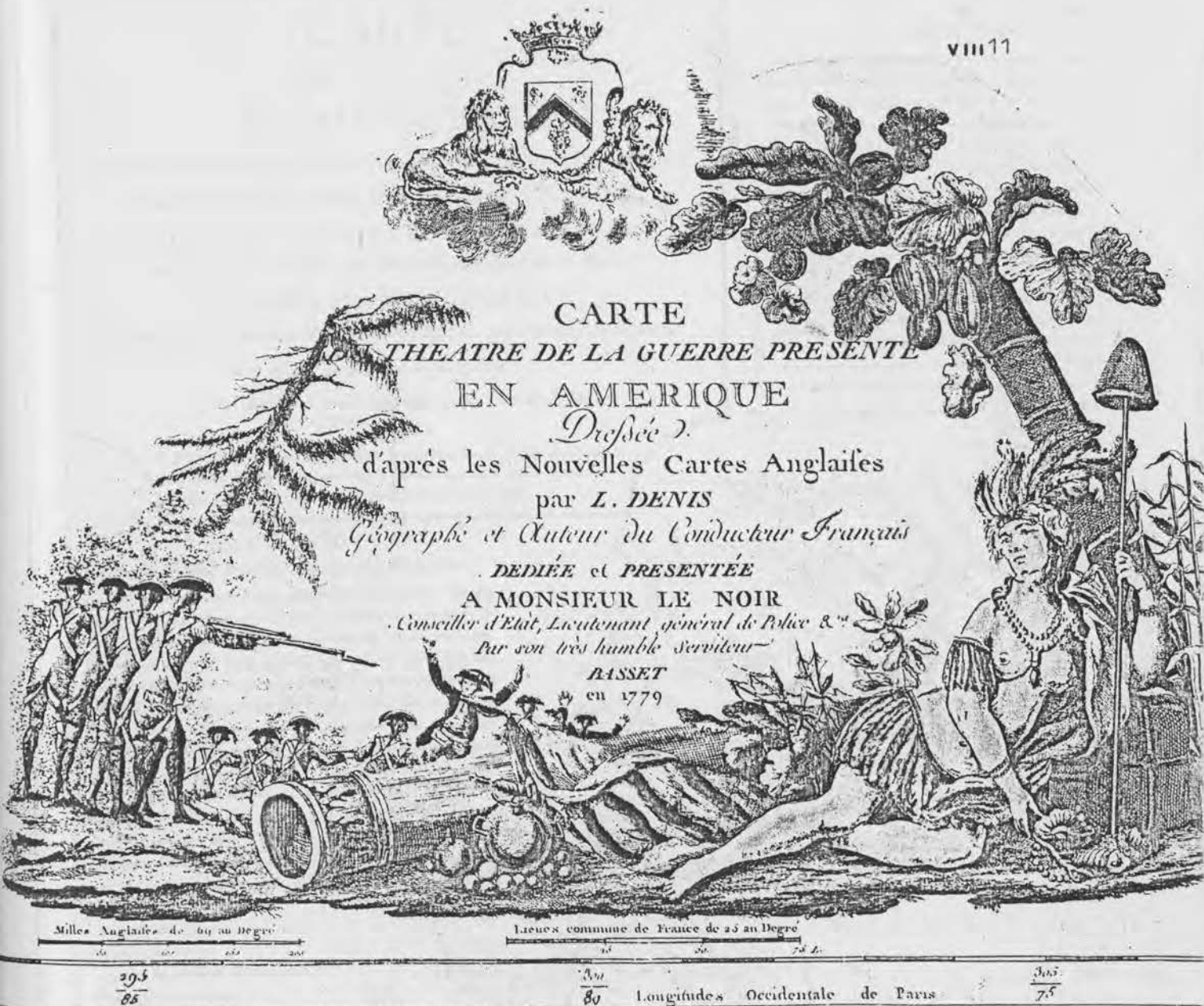
In the 18th century it was advantageous for European countries to be allied with the manipulators of the continent's destiny - the absolute rulers of France. Although Zweibrücken had been repeatedly ransacked and burned by French armies, the dukes of the Duchy so close to the French border found it expedient and advantageous to establish political, economic, and military ties with the powerful and immediate neighbor. Other states of Western Germany, including Bavaria, were also allied with France against Frederick the Great. Thus, the Seven-Year War of 1756-1763 witnessed the raising of regiments to check the rise of Prussia. The Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment activated in February of 1757 was one of these.

The first clash with the Prussians was not long in waiting. In the Battle of Rossbach in November 1757, the 45,000-men French Army was a composite of French and German units. The French corps included regiments that would fight again at Yorktown: St. Onge, Soissonnais, and Touraine. The various German contingents were collectively called the "Reichsarmee" - or imperial army - which consisted of about 11,000 effectives from the Palatinate, Bavaria, the Rhineland, and Württemberg. This combined force suffered a crushing defeat in what is regarded as one of Frederick's most brilliant victories. The 22,000-men Prussian Army routed a vastly superior force! Accounts of this battle contain interesting references to the dilemma posed by the Prussian capture of French baggage trains and camp followers. Manicurists, dancers, horse-handlers, barbers, traders, tailors and similar folk encumbered the French Army, but

provided luxuries the spartan Prussian army never even dreamed of. It is obvious that service in French interests was more appealing than underpaid and stern Prussian discipline offset only by concern in the welfare of the common soldier and a system of relentless justice affecting officer as well as man.

With the stain of the Rossbach disaster and several other bloody set-backs besmirching its reputation, the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment was anxious to redeem itself. The enthusiasm for fighting Prussians had diminished, but the chance to fight in America for an easily understood cause was welcomed and regiments vied for the honor to serve in the Expeditionary Force that would be unencumbered by luxury trains. England was an erstwhile ally of Prussia and the idea to fight for independence of a new nation was noble and romantic. Through favors and political machinations at the French court, units for Rochambeau's command were finally selected.

The anticipation of an American campaign is expressed in a number of French maps and charts of North America published when war with England was imminent and after it had broken out. (See Navigation Chart of the Chesapeake Bay) One French map of 1779 was prophetic in that the cartouche shows not only a reclining Indian maiden, forms of vegetation and a customary coat-of-arms, but also soldiers in the uniforms of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment compelling red-coated Englishmen to raise their hands as gesture of surrender. The "Carte Theatre De La Guerre Presente En Amerique" by L. Denis, contains the gross longitudinal errors of 18th century cartography, but is an interesting document of the times.



(Portions of this map were reproduced for the text and serve as cover for the Chapter "fait la bataille en Amerique". The cartouche was used repeatedly as illustration)

In 1780, a year after Denis' prophetic cartouche appeared, it came to pass that both battalions of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment of 668 rank and file in each, embarked for the voyage to America. The French expeditionary force was very small, but the French had difficulties finding ships for the transportation and maintenance of even this small contingent.

CARTE DE LA BAIE DE CHESAPEAKE

et de la Partie navigable des Rivières, James, York, Patowmack,
Patuxen, Patapsco, North-East, Choptank et Pokomack.

REDIGÉE POUR LE SERVICE DES VAISSAUX DU ROI,
au Dépôt Général des Cartes, Plans et Journaux de la Marine.

Par Ordre de M. DE SARTINE,

Conseiller d'Etat, Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat au Département de la Marine,
d'après des Plans Anglois.

et particulièrement ceux d'Antoine Smith, Pilote de S.^e Marie,

1778.

N. B. Les Brasses indiquées sont en Mesure
Angloise. La Brasse Angloise est
égale à 3 Pieds 7 p. 6^l. Mesure de France.

Les Divisions de l'Echelle de Latitude
donnent les Milles Marins et servent
d'Echelle pour le Plan.

INSTRUCTION

Pour entrer dans la Rivière James et y Naviguer.

La Pointe de Comfort est presque entièrement couverte de Bois, mais il y a deux endroits où il ne croît point d'arbres, ce qui forme deux ouvertures, et donne à cette langue de Terre, l'apparence de deux îles. On doit, en entrant, gouverner sur un Moulin à Vent qui se découvre par dessus l'ouverture du Bois la plus au Nord. Cette marque vous mènera par le travers du Bas fond de la Rivière de Willoughby, à trouver Sept à huit Brasses d'Eau. Si vous doublez cette Pointe, ne l'approchez pas de plus près qu'en ne vous l'indique ici, alors vous pourrez porter au Nord, en travers du Chenal où vous trouverez Quatorze et quinze Brasses, et faire cette route jusqu'à ce que vous n'ayez plus que dix Brasses du côté du Banc de Horse Shoe. Le Moulin à vent se trouve alors fermé, mais vous apercevrez en même temps, par le milieu de la même ouverture du Nord, une grande Maison Newport-Newle telle que vous la voyez sur la Carte.

Le Horse-Shoe est très escarpé, et la Rivière y est très forte.

Le jûant, en sortant de la Rivière de James, porte sur ce Banc.

Pour passer le Banc de Horse-Shoe.

À la Pointe de Willoughby, sont des Monticules ou Monticules de Sable, entre la plus Occidentale de ces Monticules, au Sud-Ouest; Sud; Rhumb Sud, et l'ouverture au Nord-Est, il y a bien, entre la plus haute de ces Monticules de Sable, la seule qui soit assez élevée que la cime des arbres, et gouverner au Nord. En vous dirigeant sur l'une ou l'autre de ces Marques, vous traverserez le Banc par deux Brasses.

Pour l'entrée en traverser la Monticule de Sable la plus élevée à l'O. S. O. Rh. Sud.

Sur la Rivière de Patow

En remontant la Patowmack, je me suis astreint à suivre, qu'il m'a été possible, la ligne ponctuée qui indique, sur Route à tenir, j'ai varié les profondeurs de l'Eau, et se les seulement conformes à celles qui sont indiquées par les Cha cette ligne. En descendant la Rivière, j'ai parallèlement m'assurer du Brassage, et j'ai marqué sur le Plan, les que j'ai trouvées, dans les endroits où la Carte ne les quées. J'ai corrigé les différences Reales à suivre, que j'a ce Plan, par l'indication des arcs de Vent, et j'ai même d'une Pointe à une autre, de la manière suivante.

Les Marées de la Rivière de Patowmack ne sont pas très sible ou ne l'est pas du tout. La Mer ne monte que jusqu de la partie du Sud. Dans les Marées ordinaires, l'Eau s'élève On a observé que, par un temps modéré, le Vent de Nord que le Vent de Sud, vous favorise de même pour toutes

L'Office
Carte.



A French fleet brought Rochambeau's Expeditionary force to America and landed at Newport, Rhode Island on the 11th of July 1780. This event was celebrated in 1980 and commemorated by a Postcard issued by the U.S. Postal Service and a commemorative stamp of the French Post Office. First Day Covers were cancelled



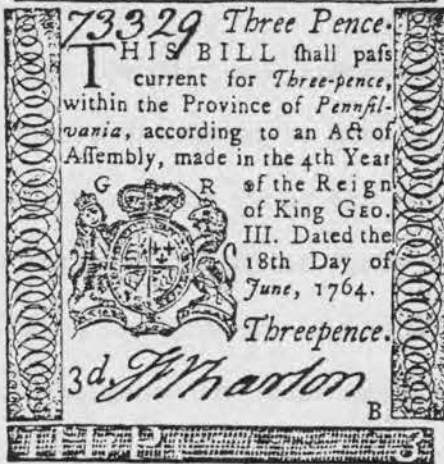
Landing of Rochambeau, 1780

aboard visiting French warships. However, Rochambeau's force was so small, that an active campaign against the British could not be seriously undertaken. A few diversionary attacks were attempted once the danger of a British attack on Newport was no longer feared. An amphibious operation in the spring of 1781 failed in view of the superiority of the Royal Navy.

The opportunity for action presented itself for the French Expeditionary Force when the British Army under General Cornwallis was selected as the objective of a combined American-French campaign. After a feint on New York, the allied army marched South to destroy the army of Cornwallis. The French West Indian Fleet prevented an English Fleet to enter Chesapeake Bay in a sea battle fought on the 5th of September 1781 and the British Army was bottled up in Yorktown.

The details of the campaign have been amply described by participants of the Battle of Yorktown. In addition to American, French, and English accounts, the written records of Axel von Fersen in letters to his father, the Report of Baron Christoph von Closen, the diary of Wilhelm von Zweibrücken, and the letters of Baron Eberhard von Eisebeck are examples of literary efforts of the Zweibrücken contingent. Through the work of the Zweibrücken historian Rudolf K. Tröss, the diary of the Fuselier Georg Flohr was found and provides insights about the feelings, joys, disappointments, and problems of the common soldier. (Several of Flohr's illustrations are used in this text) The Zweibrückers acquitted themselves well and recent research shows that 157 of them died in action in America.

Three Pence

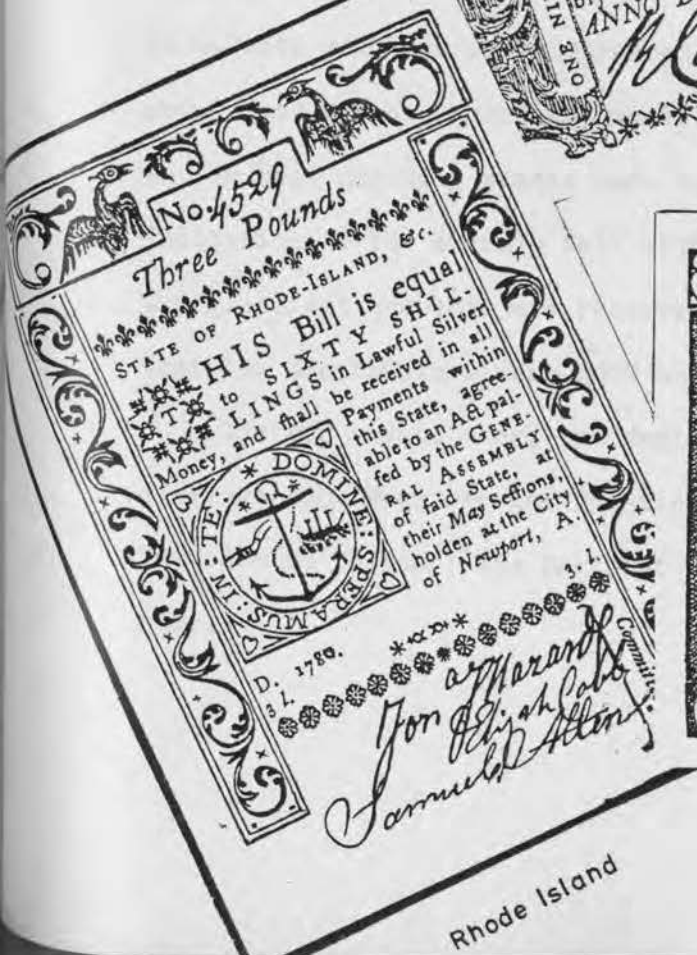


AMERICAN PAPER MONEY

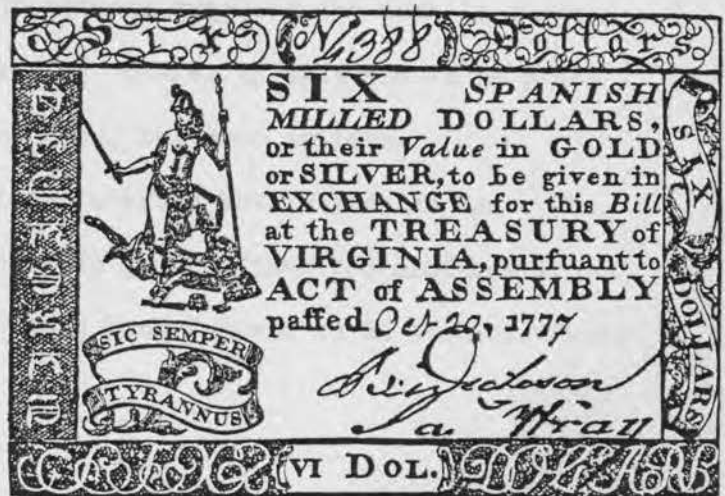
Pennsylvania



Maryland



Rhode Island



Virginia

After spending a winter in Williamsburg and Jamestown where many Zweybrückers succumbed to wounds and diseases, and where the soldiers expressed amazement about the treatment of slaves, the regiment returned to New England. Fuselier Flohr took pains in his diary to point out that the fire on the grounds of the College of William and Mary was caused by French negligence and that members of his German Regiment had nothing to do with it.

For the Germans the marches through Maryland and Pennsylvania were memorable since they met relatives and friends in these states with considerable German populations. The regiment was celebrated and its members were invited and visited. Fuselier Flohr made sketches of Philadelphia as well as "Baldimor".

With growing American uneasiness about the continued French presence in the United States, the regiments were shipped to the French West Indies. From there they returned to Europe when peace was signed. Deux-Ponts soldiers were impressed by tropical vegetation, showed concern about food, drink, quarters, women, and pay. Encounters with Germans in the most unlikely places were duly recorded by Georg Flohr as clear indication of the kinship felt with persons speaking the same language. The gloomiest accounts are reserved for voyages by ship and it is plain that the Zweybrückers were good soldiers, but poor sailors.

The sea voyage over, the Regiment started the long march home. The distance from Brest to the Palatinate is greater than the distance from Yorktown to Boston. The Regiment could look forward to be stationed near home.

THE END OF THE ROYAL DEUX-PONTS REGIMENT

New ideas of freedom, independence, and social justice spawned in America crossed the Atlantic. Fires of Revolution swept through France and the old order was coming to an end. By 1790 Zweibrücken's unpopular and fat Duke Karl August II felt proprietorship of the regiment slip away from him. All recruiting ceased, support was withdrawn, and the German officers began to resign. On the First of January 1791 the French National Assembly decreed that all regimental designations be deleted and that impersonal numbers be assigned instead. Although the number 104 appeared in conjunction with descriptions of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment, the Revolutionary Assembly chose to assign the number 99. Thus the Zweibrücken Corps of Infantry became the 99th Infantry Regiment of the Line with distinctly French uniforms, a new flag and new customs. The die was cast. Zweibrücken was inexorably drawn to Bavaria and eventually became a part of a united Germany.

The 99th Infantry Regiment as direct descendent of the Royal Deux-Ponts, distinguished itself in all wars fought by France in the ensuing centuries. The Red Lion of Zweibrücken is still the regimental symbol. The 99th Infantry Regiment is presently stationed at Sathonay in southeastern France. In January 1978, when President Carter visited Paris, two companies of this historic regiment were drawn up to accord military honors to the American head of state, thereby re-emphasizing the French role in the emergence of the United States as independent nation.

In the days of the Yorktown campaign, however, it was still a German Regiment. As such it also spawned another military unit, the short-lived 22nd Bavarian Infantry Regiment activated in 1816 when the Zweibrücker Duke ascended the throne of Bavaria.

In Yorktown a tablet near the Victory Monument honors the Deux-Ponts soldiers who gave their lives during the siege. There is an undeniably Germanic ring in names like Müller, Scholder, Stautzer, Stubert, Godfried Rouffe, and Sergeant Blitzenberger. Another tablet at the Wren Building of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg similarly reflects the German origin and composition of the Zweibrücken Regiment. (See also the Officers' Roster - "... fait la bataille en Amerique ...", Chapter VI)

BONDS ACROSS THE SEA

Resparking 200-year old relationships for Bicentennial Celebrations in 1976, Zweibrücken and Yorktown became sister-cities and partners through recognition of a shared heritage and common historical bonds. These contacts brought a delegation from Zweibrücken for the October 1976 Yorktown Day. The highlight of the visit was a ceremonial wreath-laying at Redoubt 9. "Die Stadt Zweibrücken grüsst die Toten von Yorktown" was the inscription. (The City of Zweibrücken salutes those who gave their lives at Yorktown)

Led by Mayor Dr. Jürgen Lambert, the delegation included the functionaries of the major political parties represented in the City Council: Mr. Krämer, Mrs. Krumbach, Mr. Steiner, and Mr. Wening. Also included was a representative of the "Rheinpfalz", a paper with a circulation in excess of a quarter million copies. This was Mr. Christian Schweppenhäuser. Last, but not least, was Mr. Rudolf Karl Tröss, a gentleman retired after many years of service as municipal and state official. Spry and lively despite his 79 years of age, Mr. Tröss

was honored for his contributions in researching long-forgotten facts about the splendid Regiment marching forth from the pages of history. In 1977 Mr. Tröss was honored by municipal and Rhineland-Palatinate governments for his efforts in historic research and for having reached 80 years of age.

In 1978 a delegation of nine official representatives from York County, Virginia, visited Zweibrücken on a most memorable visit to cement ties of friendship and to establish formal partnership relationships. In the exchange of gifts flags were presented, a miniature set of Royal Deux-Ponts and Gaskins Regiment soldiers and 18th century cannon was given to the city of Zweibrücken, another set to Mr. Tröss, and a third to the Lord Mayor of Zweibrücken, Dr. Fichtner. In December 1978 Dr. Fichtner lost his brave battle against cancer but will be long remembered on both sides of the Atlantic for being instrumental in making the partnership between York County and Zweibrücken a reality.

In the past three years Mr. Tröss has continued his historical searches and found additional documents concerning the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment. He succeeded in documenting the losses the Regiment has sustained in America and on the 1st of November 1980 published the article: "The Toll in Blood paid by the Regiment at Yorktown was very high" In April 1980 Mr. Tröss had published one of the love letters written by Lucy Randolph of Virginia to Christian of Zweibrücken to show that personal ties existed two hundred years ago. (Lucy Randolph's Love letter is given in the Appendix)

1981 is the year of the bicentennial of the Battle of Yorktown. Plans are underway to make it a worthy and memorable celebration. Yorktown is a symbol of international cooperation and friendship to transcend former enmities and to honor the nations once opposing each other and now joined in the NATO alliance. Again a delegation from Zweibrücken is invited and will participate in the festivities. A wreath-laying at Redoubt 9

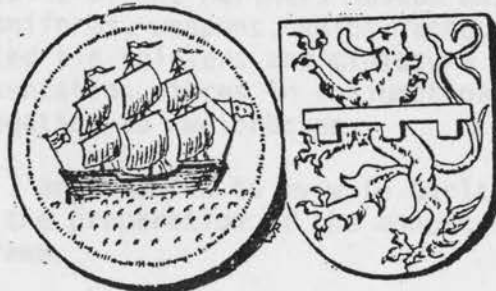
and presentation of the Ordnance Flag of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment to U.S. Park Service on the 19th of October 1981 will be of national significance. Thereafter the Royal Deux-Ponts flag will be flown alternately with the Gatinais flag over Redoubt 9 to acknowledge this German participation in the Battle of Yorktown. The street leading from the Victory Monument to the Park Service Information Center will be dedicated as "Zweibrücken Road."

The City of the Two Bridges - Zweibrücken - is a symbol to span time and distance and to bridge the gap between nations. May the translated pages of Mr. Tröbs' writings help to maintain these ties and may two bridges be forever a reminder of international dedication to causes of freedom and liberty.

Wolf Prow
Yorktown, Virginia

June 1981

1781-1981



Yorktown - Zweibrücken

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IX

Translations were typed by secretaries of York County Administration. Their efforts in coping with strange and exotic names resulted in the initial drafts and many subsequent corrections.

The Introduction, Translator's Notes, Chapter IV, and the Summary and Review were typed by Marla S. Prow, who is now Mrs. Lentz.

Musical arrangements and sheets of music of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regimental march following Chapter V were provided through the courtesy of James R. Paschall, Master Sergeant, USAF, 546th Air Force Band, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

Maps of the 18th century were made available by the Rare Book Section, Earl Greg Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, the Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia, and the Library of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

Reductions of Illustrations and Maps and Printing of the material was accomplished through the courtesy of the County Administration, York County, Virginia, and the Deputy Chief of Staff - Engineering, Headquarters TRADOC, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

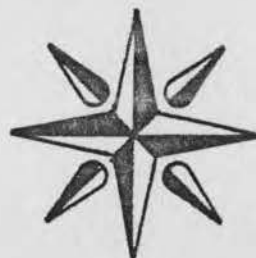
Collating, arranging, designing maps on pages O11, IV17 and the cover for Chapter VI and other cartographic work, were done by students of Maps and Charts courses taught at Christopher Newport College in Newport News in 1977. Revisions were collated and edited by Geography and Geology students of that college in 1981.

Mr. Rudolf Tröss of Zweibrücken, Germany, tirelessly continued research and most kindly provided copies of his work and of latest findings. He furnished pictures and many illustrations and loyally maintained the bonds of friendship between Zweibrücken and Yorktown.

Dr. Jürgen Lambert, Mayor of the City of Zweibrücken, kindly presented books by the late Günther Bartz (Zweibrücken - Herzogliche Zeiten - Heute) and Dewey Browder's Zweibrücken Yesterday and Today. These books provided the sources for some of the illustrations and for the historical data about Zweibrücken.

Mr. Steve Laise of the Mariners Museum was tireless in his search for information on uniforms, weapons, ships, accoutrements, and equipment. Mr. Laise also painted tin soldiers and miniature cannons in original colour schemes for presentation pieces in conjunction with the 1978 visit of the York County Delegation to Zweibrücken.

Above all, I am indebted to my wife Carla for her perseverance and assistance with the preparation of the manuscript and while the sketches and maps were drawn.



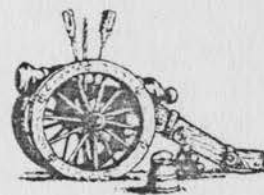


YORK COUNTY - BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

"Where Independence Was Won"

P. O. BOX 1781

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA 23690



X

APPENDIX

OLD HOMES AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

"TOWN OF YORK"



A Love Letter from Lucy Randolph of Virginia to Christian of Zweibrücken

(From the records of Geheimes Hausarchiv München, Nachl, Gravenreuth
B VI f X 12/13)

Written at Wilton, Virginia, on the 13th of July 1782

oo

The efforts I made to support with propriety our separation, was more than my condition (too weak for such trials) could go through as I wished. I acted during the morning as becomes a philosopher, but in the evening all powerful nature gave way and I sank down almost lifeless and pale as death in the presence of my family. However, a disordered stomach was the supposed cause and a lonely walk and a shower of tears gave me temporary relief. But, my friend, it is in your power alone to give me lasting happiness.

I flatter myself you are (much) better satisfied. Perpetual motion and change of scene will doubtless avert your gloomy ideas and absence, aided by manly fortitude conquer passion attended with every disagreeable circumstance. Think not I was erased from your remembrance, no, believe me, my peace depends on your constancy and unchanged affection for me. I must, moreover, tell you of my life.

I am at present with my friend, Mrs. Farley, who sees my apparent affliction and tries every method to delight me - I am reading natural philosophy and find it amusing and instructive, and if my mind was composed, I should be delighted with it. But really, my brain is a perfect chaos and heaven only knows if it will ever be more tranquil or in a situation to be improved by any kind of study. When I meet with any observation that pleases or amazes me, I immediately think if my dearest friend was with me to give me his opinion of the wonders of creation.

How great would be my pleasure, or had I the charming hope of ever being the partner of your future days, how anxiously I should pursue anything that I thought would edify or make me a more agreeable companion to the only man calculated to make me happy. But when I reflect on your cruel prudence and my own folly, I am humbled and shocked at myself.

I send this to York - may fortune for once be my friend and waft it safe to you. I impatiently expect your letter and insist every sentiment of your heart may be communicated to me without reserve. I never could forgive a want of that candour which will ever be the greatest ornament of an honest heart and tho' such truths as I frequently hear from you are like daggers to my heart, yet I can better swallow them than bear being deceived.

I desire you will number your letters, as I shall mine, that we know when any are missing that we have written. Never forget her who, while she breathes, will ever prefer you to all mankind unless your conduct in future proves you unworthy.

July 13th
Number 1

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YORKTOWN

By Douglas Southall Freeman

The story of Yorktown is not to be read in the published reports or reconstructed from the weathered redoubts. The battle, through the climax of the war, had been won the hearts of Americans before it was waged on the heights above the York. For the revolution was the most personal of wars. If men believed the uprising a crime against king and conscience, they paid for their conviction in obloquy and in exile. If they held the revolution to be the cause of justice and of right, then they gave to it their bodies and their belongings and were likely to lose both in the campaigns that covered the land from Savannah to Saratoga. The victory of Yorktown, to these patriots, was answered prayer, rewarded patience, vindicated faith. The triumph of their arms seemed a miracle. It lay at the basis of the belief, which prevailed in America until the War Between the States, that a special Providence had created a new nation as it had in ancient days preserved a chosen people. This is the spiritual significance of Yorktown and it far outweighs the military and political importance of that last campaign.

Prior to 1781, successful revolution had been the dream of patriots and defeated rebellion had been their lot. Only the Swiss and the Dutch, the one with their mountains and the other with their dykes, had refuted the maxim that rebellions were raised to be repressed. It was the Americans fortune at Yorktown to make the philosophy of revolution dynamic. They faced odds and they endured disaster. They ran at Monmouth ere they stood at Yorktown. If their cause, which had been brought close to extinction at Valley Forge, could triumph in the end, the apostles of no just cause need ever despair. Wheresoever men read history, Yorktown symbolized the inspiring truth that resolution works revolution. That was the significance of Yorktown in the world drama of man's political progress, and most of all that was its significance to France. A French king could not fight to win liberty for an alien people and deny it to his own subjects. It was a spark from Yorktown that fired the Bastille.

England, as Sir George Otto Trevelyan was fond of reminding his readers, gained as much from the revolution as America did. She saved one empire at the cost of another. She learned moderation from failure and wisdom from defeat. Never again were the bureaucrats as arrogant as in the days of Lord North. There was Nemesis in this, destruction for the destroyer. To abuse power is to lose it--that lesson Yorktown taught the world.

The washings of 150 years had effaced many of these memories when the Sesquicentennial was observed. It would not be unjust to say that a majority of those who journeyed to Yorktown in the glorious autumn weather of 1931 went to perform a duty rather than to learn a lesson, to see history portrayed, rather than made. Yet the celebration came most opportunely. In the welter of a great industrial depression that had itself followed a period of singular political cynicism, there was something reassuring in contact with the scenes of so much faith and courage.

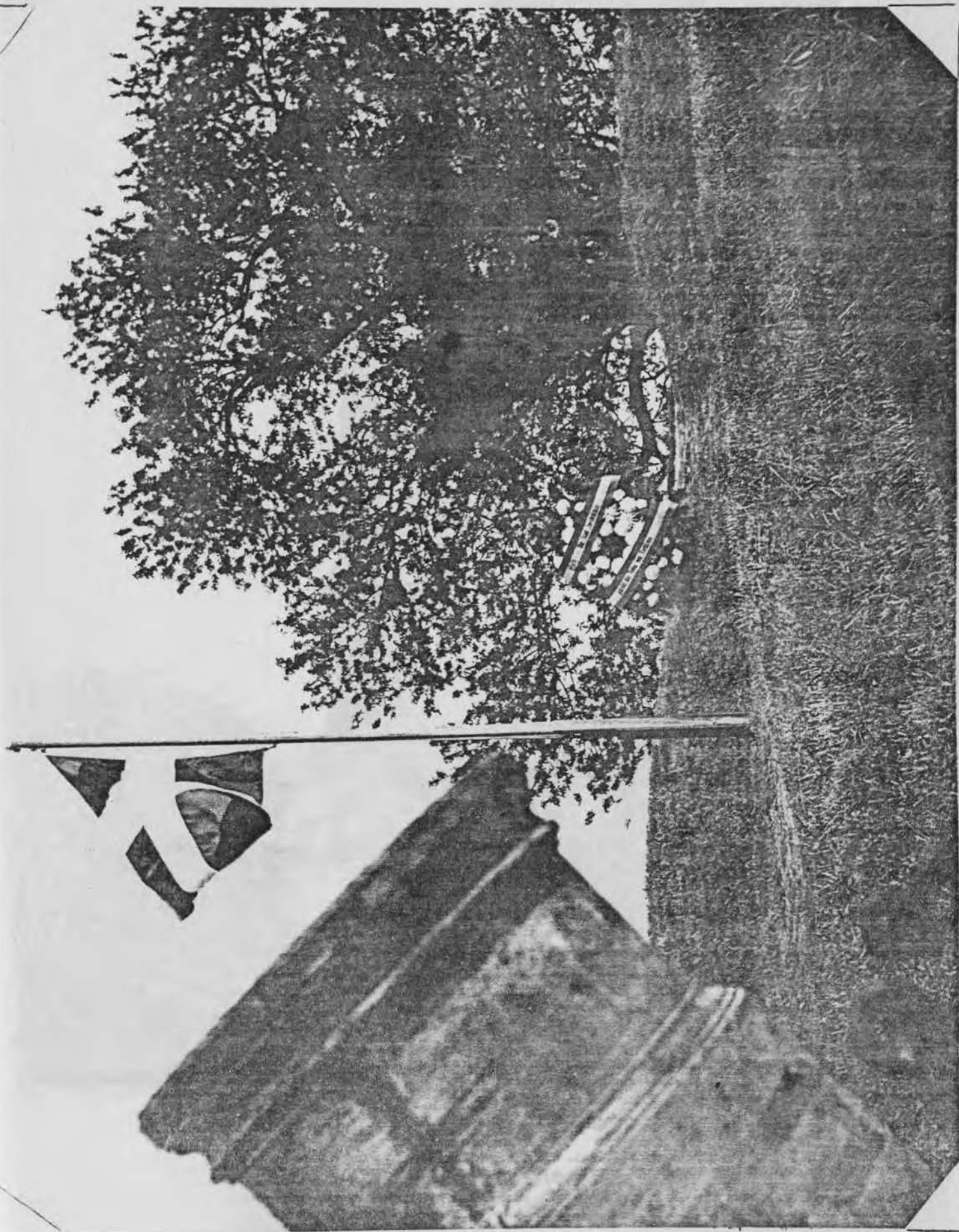
Many there were who went back from Yorktown with the conviction that a nation which had been born in one revolution should not perish in another.

There was significance, too, in the presence of French, British and Americans, enemies in 1781, allies or associates in 1917. With Iolaus in the Eracleidai they could say:

*Let wise men pray to strive
With wise men, not with graceless arrogance;
So, if one falls, he stoops to chivalrous foe.*

The comradeship of recent years had dissipated all the animosities of the original conflict. These three powers, at the time of the Sesquicentennial, had the peace of the globe in their keeping. Were they ready to make the sacrifices necessary to maintain that peace? In 1781 America gave to France and to the rest of the world proof that a small nation can deserve liberty for itself. Could it, in 1931, give equal assurance that a great nation would help preserve liberty for others? Had France pursued a policy of isolation during the revolution, America would have lost. What will the world suffer now if America stands aloof?

How will these lessons of Yorktown appear to those who, fifty years hence, come to celebrate an event that will then be as far from them as the defeat of the Armada was from the revolutionaries of 1781? What will be the significance of Yorktown to those who....see how their grandfathers observed the Sesquicentennial? The answer to that question lies with the prophet, not with the historian; but if liberty lives, whatever its form, it will be linked with Yorktown.



Wreath of the Zweibrücken Delegation at Redoubt 9



The Victory Monument

Yorktown, Virginia